Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is Windows Server 2008 R2?**

**A:** Windows Server 2008 R2 builds on the award-winning foundation of Windows Server 2008, expanding existing technology and adding new innovations to enable customers to quickly save money and be more efficient today and more effective tomorrow. New virtualization capabilities including Live Migration, Web resources, management enhancements, and exciting Windows 7 integration help customers increase the reliability, flexibility and efficiency of their server infrastructures.

**Q. What editions/versions does Windows Server 2008 R2 come in?**

**A.**   Windows Server 2008 R2 will be released with six editions which include:

**Windows Server 2008® R2 Foundation** is an entry-level cost-effective technology foundation for your business designed for small business owners and IT Generalists supporting small businesses. Foundation is an inexpensive, easy-to-deploy, proven and reliable technology that provides organizations with the foundation to run the most prevalent business applications as well as share information and resources.

**Windows Server® 2008 R2 Standard** is an advanced server platform that provides more cost-effective and reliable support for business workloads. It offers innovative features for virtualization, power savings, and manageability and helps make it easier for mobile workers to access company resources.

**Windows Server® 2008 R2 Enterprise** is an advanced server platform that provides more cost-effective and reliable support for mission-critical workloads. It offers innovative features for virtualization, power savings, and manageability and helps make it easier for mobile workers to access company resources.

**Windows Server® 2008 R2 Datacenter** is an advanced server platform that provides more cost-effective and reliable support for mission-critical workloads. It offers innovative features for virtualization, power savings, and manageability and helps make it easier for mobile workers to access company resources.

**Windows ® Web Server 2008 R2** is a powerful Web application and services platform. Featuring Internet Information Services (IIS) 7.5 and designed exclusively as an Internet-facing server, it offers improved administration and diagnostic tools to help reduce infrastructure costs when used with a variety of popular development platforms. With included Web Server and DNS Server roles, as well as improved reliability and scalability, this platform allows you to manage the most demanding environments — from a dedicated Web server to an entire Web server farm.

**Windows Server® 2008 R2 for Itanium-Based Systems** delivers an enterprise-class platform for deploying business-critical applications. Scale database, line-of-business, and custom applications to meet growing business needs. Help improve availability with failover clustering and dynamic hardware partitioning capabilities\*. Virtualize deployments with rights to run an unlimited number of virtual instances of Windows Server\*\*. Windows Server 2008 R2 for Itanium-Based Systems helps provide the foundation for a highly dynamic IT infrastructure. \*Requires supporting server hardware.\*\* Requires a third-party virtualization technology. Hyper-VTM is not available for Itanium-based systems.

**Q. When will Windows Server 2008 R2 be available for purchase?**

**A.**   Windows 7 will be generally available on October 22nd, with Windows Server 2008 R2 available on or before that date. However, existing Volume Licensing customers will be able to download Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 in the second half of August. More information on licensing, pricing and availability can be found [here](http://www.microsoft.com/Windowsserver2008/en/us/licensing-r2.aspx).

**Q. Why should I upgrade to Windows Server 2008 R2 from previous versions of Windows Server?**

**A.**   We are always focused on driving forward with our business and the development of new versions. We are working to ensure our customers and partners have the guidance they need to deploy the new server software. We encourage customers to invest in Windows Server 2008 to provide a better migration path to WS08 R2.

For more information about Windows Server 2008 R2 and the value it brings to customers, please visit <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserver2008/en/us/R2.aspx>

**Q.**  **What’s new in Windows Server 2008 R2?**

**A.**   Windows Server 2008 R2 builds on the award-winning foundation of Windows Server 2008, expanding existing technology and adding new innovations to enable customers to quickly save money and be more efficient today and more effective tomorrow. New virtualization tools, Web resources, management enhancements, and exciting Windows 7 integration help customers increase the reliability, flexibility and efficiency of their server infrastructures. These features include:

* **Live Migration** – enables customers to move virtual machines from one host to another with no perceivable downtime. Live migration facilitates hardware maintenance and upgrades, manual failover, and the consolidation of workloads on fewer servers. With this level of automation in the datacenter, IT costs related to labor, power, cooling and maintenance can be decrease.
* **Hyper-V support for up to 64 logical processors –**increasing the logical processor support from the original 16 to 64 enables customers to achieve higher consolidation ratios with new multi-core hardware and more scalable virtualization scenarios than before.
* **Hyper-V processor compatibility mode for Live Migration**– allows Live Migration across different CPU versions within the same processor family, (e.g.”Intel Core 2-to-Intel Pentium 4” or “AMD Opteron-to-AMD Athlon”) enabling migration across a broader range of server host hardware.
* **DirectAccess**– allows remote workers to securely and seamlessly remotely connect to their work environment as if they were on the corporate network and lets IT administrators continually manage those PCs, without the use of a VPN, resulting in greater flexibility for remote workers and reduced administration costs.
* **BranchCache**™ – customers can reduce Wide Area Network (WAN) bandwidth consumption between the datacenter and branch offices by keeping a branch copy of frequently used data. The result is a significant reduction in networking costs because most organizations pay for such bandwidth by the byte.
* **Remote Desktop Services**: enables customer to deploy a unified infrastructure for all their centralized desktop deployments, whether based on user session or on VDI architecture.
* **File Classification Infrastructure (FCI)** – provides customers with a built-in solution for file classification and management, helping to save them time and money. Administrators can automatically classify files based on content and location, generate reports and schedule file management tasks to manage data, helping mitigate risk to their business.  FCI also enables ISV partners to build on top of it.
* **Improved power management** – empowers customers to save right out of the box. New processor power management and default settings, reduced storage power consumption and enhanced budgeting and metering capabilities help save power and money. Recent tests found that Windows Server 2008 R2 improved power efficiency by up to 18 percent over Windows Server 2003.
* **Windows PowerShell 2.0**- helps enterprises optimize resources and trim costs with powerful scripting capabilities which can help automate server deployment and configuration, simplifying management. 2.0 offers significant enhancements from the previous version with the inclusion of more than 240 pre-built “cmdlets” as well as a new graphical user interface (GUI) that adds professional-level development features for writing scripts.
* **IIS 7.5** – Full support for .NET on Server Core, as well as updated PHP support, new management tools and bundled extensions.

**Q: Will Windows Server 2008 R2 only be available in 64-bit?**

**A:** Yes. 64-bit processors have become the industry standard for systems ranging from the most scalable servers to desktop PCs. This shift has driven server standards forward, so the 64-bit processor is our focus.

**Q: Do I have to upgrade to 64-bit CPU hardware to run Windows Server 2008 R2?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: Can I run 32-bit applications on Windows Server 2008 R2?**

**A:** Yes. Like Windows Server 2003 and Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2008 R2 will provide for 32-bit applications with Windows on Windows 64, or WOW64.  Both 32-bit and 64-bit applications can run natively on x64 processors, with Windows Server managing the transitions – resulting in excellent performance for both.  The end result is a platform that utilizes the existing wealth of 32-bit applications while also providing a smooth migration path to 64-bit computing.

**Q: What will my upgrade experience be like moving from Windows Server 2008 to Windows Server 2008 R2?**

**A:** The [Microsoft Deployment Toolkit 2008](http://www.microsoft.com/deployment) is the recommended process and toolset to automate desktop and server deployment. Microsoft Deployment Toolkit 2008 provides detailed guidance and job aids for every organizational role involved with large-scale deployment projects.

**Q: What tools can customers use to determine if their applications or ISV applications will run on the new platform?**

**A:** We have free testing tools and guides available at [www.microsoft.com/windowsserver/appcompat](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserver/appcompat) to help IT professionals, corporate developers and ISVs test their applications on Windows Server 2008 R2. The “Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 Application Cookbook” outline the changes between the operating system versions and the Software Compatibility Toolkit has highly automated test tools that run 25 test cases for compatibility. Users will be able to determine if the application is compatible and potential issues.

**Q.  Does Windows Server 2008 R2 offer virtualization?**

**A.**  Yes. Hyper-V has become an integral part of the Windows Server platform in the Windows Server 2008 R2 release. To learn about the exciting new features available with Hyper-V, please visit <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserver2008/en/us/R2-virtualization.aspx>

**Q. What management improvements does Windows Server 2008 R2 provide?**

**A.**  Streamlined management is a key focus of Windows Server 2008 R2. Several management consoles have been updated with new tools and wizards, and many have been rebuilt to run on top of the newly updated PowerShell, including the new Active Directory Administration Center. For its part, PowerShell has been updated with rover 240 new cmdlets and the ability to administer servers remotely.

**Q. What changes have there been in Windows Server 2008 Terminal Services?**

**A.**   With the Windows Server 2008 R2 release, Terminal Services has become Remote Desktop Services (RDS). In conjunction with the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI), RDS offers new virtual application and desktop resources. Administrators can now roll out such resources to users more easily and dynamically; additionally, protocol improvements provide users with upgraded graphics, multimedia and network performance improvements and tight integration with Windows 7.

**Q. How does Windows Server 2008 R2 support my Web applications?**

**A.**   Windows Server 2008 R2 builds on Windows Server 2008’s IIS 7.0 platform with the new IIS 7.5. The new web server continues its strong presence as a Web application server, now adding updated administration capabilities, enhanced support for PowerShell as well as support for PHP and ASP.NET on IIS servers running on Server Core. You can learn more by visiting the [Web and Application Platform](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserver2008/en/us/web-application.aspx) page.

**Q.**  **How does Windows Server 2008 R2 work with Windows 7?**

**A.**  Windows Server 2008 R2 and Windows 7 were developed in conjunction for an optimized “Better Together” experience. While Windows Server 2008 R2 can work with any Windows desktop operating system, working with Windows 7 provides numerous new and enhanced features and business benefits, including optimized mobile computing with DirectAccess, improved remote computing with BranchCache, and powerful new access to virtual resources that act identically to local resources via Remote Desktop Services. You can learn more on the [Windows Server 2008 R2 and Windows 7—Better Together](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserver2008/en/us/R2-Better-Together.aspx) page.

**Q. What applications work with Windows Server 2008 R2?**

**A.**  For a full run-down on Windows Server 2008 R2 application compatibility, links to the Windows Server Catalog and IT Pro testing tools, please visit the [Application Compatibility for IT Professionals and Developers](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserver2008/en/us/appcompat.aspx) resource page.

**Q.**  **Are there tools available to assess my infrastructure readiness for Windows Server 2008 R2?**

**A.**   Yes, the [Microsoft Assessment and Planning (MAP) Toolkit](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/solutionaccelerators/dd537566.aspx?SA_CE=WINSVR-MAP-WEB-MSCOMWINSVR-2009-07-13) will assess readiness for migration to Windows Server 2008 R2.