

Windows Small Business Server (SBS) 2003

Why move to SBS?

Small businesses are often slow to adopt new server technologies due to concerns about cost, security and complexity. However, if you have fewer than 75 employees, SBS is an extremely cost effective way to harness the technologies of a number of cutting edge Microsoft server products bundled into one software package.

Key technical features of Small Business Server

- file and printer sharing
- email and secure Internet access (*requires account with an Internet Service Provider*)
- remote access and support for mobile devices such as laptops
- business intranet and collaborative features using SharePoint Team Services
- backup and restore capabilities
- enhanced security and improved stability
- easy to install and maintain

What about the hassle of moving to a new server?

- SBS is quick to install - it can be set up and configured in a day - so your staff won't waste valuable working time.
- It can easily be set to run services automatically, for example the Backup Wizard ensures your data is backed up to a regular schedule - all you need to do is insert the backup media.
- It is designed so that the basic operations can be monitored by your capable (but non-IT specialist) staff while more advanced aspects can be dealt with remotely, enabling a support company like Syplex to maintain your system in a very cost effective manner.

So how do I benefit from Windows Small Business Server 2003?

- **Centralise access to information, applications and equipment**
 - shared files and folders are readily accessible, even if you work remotely
 - staff can access and share printers, fax services and other network resources
- **Ensure network security and privacy, thoroughly and easily**
 - Wizards simplify security settings and help ensure all the necessary security steps are taken while setting up your network
 - Use software restriction policies to help prevent unapproved installations and help protect against viruses and other attacks
 - SBS includes an internal firewall and also supports external firewalls
 - If you upgrade to Microsoft Office 2003, new features allow you to restrict access to documents and prevent a recipient from forwarding, printing, editing and extracting document information.
- **Guard against data loss using back up and restore functions**
 - Volume shadow copy service enables point-in-time backups and helps your backup procedures run quickly and with minimal errors
 - The Backup Configuration Wizard guides you through the creation and implementation of a successful data backup strategy - what to back up, when to do it, and where to store the backup information. By default, it backs up all the data on the server that is needed to completely restore that server.

- **Keep your business (and your server) up and running**
 - Improved monitoring tools and usage reports give details of network status (eg server activity) - delivered online or by email
 - remote monitoring and maintenance of server and workstations means you don't need to call out IT support for assistance with every little issue
 - If you have in-house IT staff, they benefit from the preconfigured management consoles and powerful tools such as Active Directory
 - SBS is built on Windows Server 2003, Microsoft's most reliable network operating system so far, so you can focus on your business and stop worrying about your IT.
- **Access information from anywhere, anytime**
 - Outlook Web Access and VPN (virtual private network) connections over the Internet allow secure access to email and also shared network resources.
 - Remote Web Workplace, the new remote portal, allows authorised users to work remotely using an interface very similar to their normal office desktop.
 - Businesses running the premium edition with SQL Server 2000 can now establish an interactive Web presence with an unlimited number of visitors
- **Improve team performance through enhanced collaboration**
 - Windows SharePoint Services (not included in previous versions of SBS) provides a centralized location for working together and sharing documents. Document management features include the ability to check documents in and out to avoid confusion over versions.
 - A pre-configured Intranet based on SharePoint Services allows staff to share information, including document libraries, announcements, a holiday calendar, events, and links. They can also participate in surveys or discussion groups.
 - With the enhanced security features of SBS, you can safely create portals to communicate and collaborate with customers or business partners
 - Enhanced Microsoft Outlook Web Access enables users to access an Internet version of Microsoft Office Outlook 2003 to share files and schedules
- **Improve your professional image, and work more effectively**
 - If you are not already doing so, you can host your own email, create a company Web presence, and access business information remotely.
 - Respond more quickly to customer enquiries, with better access to shared corporate information. Rather than going through paper files, keep documentation together in a central repository using SharePoint services
 - Use your increased productivity to spend more time on marketing and gaining new customers
- **Be in a position where it is easy to grow your IT together with your business**
 - If you already have a Windows Server, you can use it as a as a dedicated line-of-business server side by side with SBS
 - If your business expands, the Migration Pack enables you to grow from SBS 2003 to the components included within the product (including Windows Server 2003, Exchange Server 2003, SQL Server 2000, and Internet Security and Acceleration Server 2000).

Studies commissioned by Microsoft in the USA suggest that businesses who move to SBS are able to cover the cost of their investment (software, plus installation, any hardware upgrades, staff training and downtime) within average period of less than one year, while reporting significant ROI due mostly to increased productivity. The studies also found that the ability to access work remotely lead to a better work/life balance for some small business owners.

Which edition do I need? What type of licence?

SBS 2003 is available in two editions: standard and premium. The standard edition is ideal for many businesses, but you may need the premium edition if you answer yes to any of the following questions:

- Do you need to monitor or control who can access the Internet?
- Do you need to support a significant relational business database?
- Do you need to be able to run full text searches within a document library?
- Do you need to create your own customised solutions for Windows SharePoint Services?
- Do you want to develop a website using Microsoft Office FrontPage?

Features of both Standard and Premium editions

Windows Server 2003

- Security-enhanced, reliable operating system that keeps data available on an internal network Includes the power of Microsoft Active Directory® directory service and its tools

Windows SharePoint Services

- Team communications and collaboration environment

Exchange Server 2003 technology

- Communication, messaging and collaboration infrastructure that helps increase productivity
- Outlook Web Access, to access e-mail through the Web

Microsoft Office Outlook 2003

- A unified place to manage e-mail, calendars, contacts, and other personal and team information

Microsoft Shared Fax Service

- Fax with fewer telephone lines, from users' desktops, at user-set hours
- Receive faxes through SharePoint, e-mail, or printer

Routing and Remote Access Services (RRAS)

- Firewall technology to help secure Internet connections

Features only in the Premium Edition

ISA Server 2000 technology

- Firewall technology to help secure Internet connections

SQL Server 2000

- Relational database supporting line-of-business applications

Microsoft Office FrontPage® 2003

- Tools for sophisticated Web site development or the creation of customized solutions for Windows SharePoint Services

Device and User CALs (Client Access Licences)

Each edition of Windows Small Business Server 2003 supports up to a maximum of 75 client computers, licensed as either device CALs or as user CALs.

- With device CALs, you acquire a CAL for every device (eg desktop, laptop) that accesses your server. Device CALs make economic and administrative sense for a company with multiple users for each PC, such as shift workers.
- With user CALs, you acquire a CAL for every named user accessing your server. The licensed users can access the server from any device. User CALs are the easiest method of licencing for most companies.