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Welcome to the PC Connection – Microsoft Monthly Newsletter! This newsletter is designed to deliver you, our valued Microsoft Customer's, the latest Licensing, Product, Security, Events, and Promotional information from Microsoft.

Announcements

SQL Server 2008 Launches!

Summary

SQL Server 2008 is slated to be available on the August 1, 2008 Volume License price lists. The licensing of SQL Server 2008 remains consistent with SQL Server 2005 with similar pricing. A new Web SKU has been added and will be available in Volume Programs.

Details

The notable SKU related changes for SQL Server 2008 from SQL Server 2005 are:

- Addition of a Web SKU. This is a SKU for hosting public facing web sites and applications only, and is available in SPLA and VL channels
- Individual binaries for SQL Server 2008 Enterprise Edition 32-bit, 64-bit and Itanium platform will be available on a single DVD as against a separate DVD for each platform.
- SQL Server 2008 Standard Edition is no longer available for Itanium processors

In general, SQL Server 2008 pricing remains similar to SQL Server 2005 pricing. There are some minor adjustments between price lists, so please refer to price lists for details.

The licensing model for SQL Server 2008 is also similar to that of 2005. The notable differences are:

- SQL Server 2008 licenses are no longer platform specific (32 bit, 64 bit or Itanium) and a license may be used to run the software on any these supported platforms. Cross platform rights, that were explicitly called out in the licensing terms of SQL Server 2005 are therefore now redundant and not called out.
- Sample code for SQL Server 2008 will be available for download from the corporate website, instead of being installed via the DVD.

Editions	Channels in which offered	Processor Pricing	Server Plus CAL Pricing
<i>Enterprise Edition</i> A comprehensive data management and business intelligence platform providing enterprise class scalability, high availability and security for running business critical applications.	Retail, VL, OEM, ISVR, SPLA	Retail* \$24,999	Retail* \$13, 969 with 25 CALs
<i>Standard Edition</i> A complete data management and business intelligence platform providing best in class ease of use and manageability for running departmental applications.	Retail, VL, OEM, ISVR, SPLA	Retail* \$24,999	Retail* \$13, 969 with 25 CALs

Workgroup Edition A reliable data management and reporting platform providing secure, remote synchronization and management capabilities for running branch applications.	Retail, VL, OEM, ISVR, SPLA	Retail* \$3,899	Retail* \$739 with 5 CALs
Developer Edition May be installed and used by one user to design, develop, test and demonstrate your programs on as many systems as needed.	Retail, VL, OEM, MSDN	Retail* \$50	Not applicable
Web Edition A low-TCO, scalable & manageable database option for web hosters and end customers looking to deploy publicly facing web applications and services.	SPLA, VL	\$15 per proc per month (SPLA)	Not applicable
Express Edition A free edition of SQL Server ideal for learning and building desktop and small server applications and for re-distribution by ISVs.	Available via web download; redistribution allowed	Not applicable	Not applicable
Compact Edition A free, SQL Server embedded database ideal for building stand-alone and occasionally connected applications for mobile devices, desktops & web clients.	Available via web download; redistribution allowed	Not applicable	Not applicable
Evaluation Edition This edition may be installed for demonstration and evaluation purposes until an expiration period of 180 days.	Available via web download	Not applicable	Not applicable

**All prices reflect pricing for purchases within the United States and are in U.S. dollars. The prices listed are estimated retail prices; reseller pricing may vary.*

For more details on SQL Server 2008 licensing visit: <http://www.microsoft.com/sql/howtobuy/default.mspx>

System Center Product Name Changes

Summary

REMINDER: It is very important to understand that there will be NO change to License rights, use rights or the products themselves as a result of these name changes. These changes are being made to provide consistency in naming conventions across all System Center products. SKU numbers will remain the same.

Update

In conjunction with the schedule communicated in May, the first round of System Center product name changes have been implemented. The updates to System Center Ops Manager product names were made as reflected in the matrix below during the week of June 23rd and subsequently have been sent to down stream systems that display SKU descriptions such as price lists, purchase order history reports, etc. These new product descriptions are now visible.

SYSTEM CENTER OPERATIONS MANAGER – Changes effective week of June 23rd			
OLD Product Family Name	NEW Product Family Name	NEW Product Family Abbreviation Displayed in SKU Descriptions	New SKU Numbers?
Ops Mgr Server	Sys Ctr Ops Mgr Svr	Sys Ctr Ops Mgr Svr	NO
N/A	Sys Ctr Ops Mgr Svr wSQLr	Sys Ctr Ops Mgr Svr wSQL	YES – Available on August Price Lists
Ops Mgr Client Ops Mgmt Lic	Sys Ctr Ops Mgr Clt Mgmt Lic	Sys Ctr Ops Mgr Clt ML	NO
Ops Mgr Ent Ops Mgmt Lic	Sys Ctr Ops Mgr Svr Mgmt Lic Ent	Sys Ctr Ops Mgr Svr ML Ent	NO

Ops Mgr Std Ops Mgmt Lic	Sys Ctr Ops Mgr Svr Mgmt Lic Std	Sys Ctr Ops Mgr Svr ML Std	NO
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In addition, the newly created product families Sys Ctr Ops Mgr Svr wSQL and Sys Ctr Essentials wSQL have launched on August price lists which are available for preview as of July 1, 2008. The old SKUs will be discontinued on July 31st. A matrix of old/new SKUs for these new product families is attached.

See below for complete details.

Value to Customer

- The changes to System Center product names will help provide consistency to the product line

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Product Focus

SQL Server 2008 – What's New?

Your Data, Any Place, Any Time

SQL Server 2008 delivers on Microsoft's Data Platform vision by helping your organization manage any data, any place, any time. It enables you to store data from structured, semi-structured, and unstructured documents, such as images and music, directly within the database. SQL Server 2008 delivers a rich set of integrated services that enable you to do more with your data such as query, search, synchronize, report, and analyze. Your data can be stored and accessed in your largest servers within the data center all the way down to desktops and mobile devices, enabling you to have control over your data no matter where it is stored.

SQL Server 2008 enables you to consume your data within custom applications developed using Microsoft .NET and Visual Studio and within your service-oriented architecture (SOA) and business process through Microsoft BizTalk Server while information workers can access data directly in the tools they use every day, such as the 2007 Microsoft Office system. SQL Server 2008 delivers a trusted, productive, and intelligent data platform for all your data needs

SQL Server 2008 New Features

TRUSTED

SQL Server provides the highest levels of security, reliability, and scalability for your business-critical applications.

Protect valuable information:

- **Transparent Data Encryption**
Enable encryption of an entire database, data files, or log files, without the need for application changes. Benefits of this include: Search encrypted data using both range and fuzzy searches, search secure data from unauthorized users, and data encryption without any required changes in existing applications.
- **Extensible Key Management**
SQL Server 2005 provides a comprehensive solution for encryption and key management. SQL Server 2008 delivers an excellent solution to this growing need by supporting third-party key management and HSM products.
- **Auditing**
Create and manage auditing via DDL, while simplifying compliance by providing more comprehensive data auditing. This enables organizations to answer common questions, such as, "What data was retrieved?"

Ensure business continuity

- **Enhanced Database Mirroring**
SQL Server 2008 builds on SQL Server 2005 by providing a more reliable platform that has enhanced database mirroring, including automatic page repair, improved performance, and enhanced supportability.
- **Automatic Recovery of Data Pages**
SQL Server 2008 enables the principal and mirror machines to transparently recover from 823/824 types of data page errors by requesting a fresh copy of the suspect page from the mirroring partner transparently to end users and applications.

- **Log Stream Compression**

Database mirroring requires data transmissions between the participants of the mirroring implementations. With SQL Server 2008, compression of the outgoing log stream between the participants delivers optimal performance and minimizes the network bandwidth used by database mirroring.

Enable predictable response

- **Resource Governor**

Provide a consistent and predictable response to end users with the introduction of Resource Governor, allowing organizations to define resource limits and priorities for different workloads, which enable concurrent workloads to provide consistent performance to their end users.

- **Predictable Query Performance**

Enable greater query performance stability and predictability by providing functionality to lock down query plans, enabling organizations to promote stable query plans across hardware server replacements, server upgrades, and production deployments.

- **Data Compression**

Enable data to be stored more effectively, and reduce the storage requirements for your data. Data compression also provides significant performance improvements for large I/O bound workloads, like data warehousing.

- **Hot Add CPU**

Dynamically scale a database on demand by allowing CPU resources to be added to SQL Server 2008 on supported hardware platforms without forcing any downtime on applications. Note that SQL Server already supports the ability to add memory resources online.

PRODUCTIVE

To take advantage of new opportunities in today's fast-moving business world, companies need the ability to create and deploy data-driven solutions quickly. SQL Server 2008 reduces time and cost of management and development of applications.

Manage by policies

- **Policy-Based Management**

Policy-Based Management is a policy-based system for managing one or more instances of SQL Server 2008. Use this with SQL Server Management Studio to create policies that manage entities on the server, such as the instance of SQL Server, databases, and other SQL Server objects.

- **Streamlined Installation**

SQL Server 2008 introduces significant improvements to the service life cycle for SQL Server through the re-engineering of the installation, setup, and configuration architecture. These improvements separate the installation of the physical bits on the hardware from the configuration of the SQL Server software, enabling organizations and software partners to provide recommended installation configurations.

- **Performance Data Collection**

Performance tuning and troubleshooting are time-consuming tasks for the administrator. To provide actionable performance insights to administrators, SQL Server 2008 includes more extensive performance data collection, a new centralized data repository for storing performance data, and new tools for reporting and monitoring.

Simplify application development

- **Language Integrated Query (LINQ)**

Enable developers to issue queries against data, using a managed programming language, such as C# or VB.NET, instead of SQL statements. Enable seamless, strongly typed, set-oriented queries written in .NET languages to run against ADO.NET (LINQ to SQL), ADO.NET DataSets (LINQ to DataSets), the ADO.NET Entity Framework (LINQ to Entities), and to the Entity Data Service Mapping provider. Use the new LINQ to SQL provider that enables developers to use LINQ directly on SQL Server 2008 tables and columns.

- **ADO.NET Object Services**

The Object Services layer of ADO.NET enables the materialization, change tracking, and persistence of data as CLR objects. Developers using the ADO.NET framework can program against a database, using CLR objects that are managed by ADO.NET. SQL Server 2008 introduces more efficient, optimized support that improves performance and simplifies development.

Store any information

- **DATE/TIME**

SQL Server 2008 introduces new date and time data types:

- o DATE—A date-only type
- o TIME—A time-only type
- o DATETIMEOFFSET—A time-zone-aware datetime type

- o DATETIME2—A datetime type with larger fractional seconds and year range than the existing DATETIME type. The new data types enable applications to have separate data and time types while providing large data ranges or user defined precision for time values.
- **FILESTREAM Data**
Allow large binary data to be stored directly in an NTFS file system, while preserving an integral part of the database and maintaining transactional consistency. Enable the scale-out of large binary data traditionally managed by the database to be stored outside the database on more cost-effective storage without compromise.
- **Integrated Full Text Search**
Integrated Full Text Search makes the transition between Text Search and relational data seamless, while enabling users to use the Text Indexes to perform high-speed text searches on large text columns.
- **Sparse Columns**
NULL data consumes no physical space, providing a highly efficient way of managing empty data in a database. For example, Sparse Columns allows object models that typically have numerous null values to be stored in a SQL Server 2005 database without experiencing large space costs.
- **Large User-Defined Types**
SQL Server 2008 eliminates the 8-KB limit for User-Defined Types (UDTs), allowing users to dramatically expand the size of their UDTs.
- **Spatial Data Types**
Build spatial capabilities into your applications by using the support for spatial data.
 - o Implement Round Earth solutions with the geography data type. Use latitude and longitude coordinates to define areas on the Earth's surface.
 - o Implement Flat Earth solutions with the geometry data type. Store polygons, points, and lines that are associated with projected planar surfaces and naturally planar data, such as interior spaces.

INTELLIGENT

SQL Server 2008 provides a comprehensive platform, delivering intelligence where your users want it.

Integrate any data

- **Backup Compression**
Keeping disk-based backups online is expensive and time-consuming. With SQL Server 2008 backup compression, less storage is required to keep backups online, and backups run significantly faster since less disk I/O is required.
- **Partitioned Table Parallelism**
Partitions enable organizations to manage large growing tables more effectively by transparently breaking them into manageable blocks of data. SQL Server 2008 builds on the advances of partitioning in SQL Server 2005 by improving the performance on large partitioned tables.
- **Star Join Query Optimizations**
SQL Server 2008 provides improved query performance for common data warehouse scenarios. Star Join Query optimizations reduce query response time by recognizing data warehouse join patterns. Grouping Sets is an extension to the GROUP BY clause that lets users define multiple groupings in the same query. Grouping Sets produces a single result set that is equivalent to a UNION ALL of differently grouped rows, making aggregation querying and reporting easier and faster.
- **Change Data Capture**
With Change Data Capture, changes are captured and placed in change tables. It captures complete content of changes, maintains cross-table consistency, and even works across schema changes. This enables organizations to integrate the latest information into the data warehouse.
- **MERGE SQL Statement**
With the introduction of the MERGE SQL Statement, developers can more effectively handle common data warehousing scenarios, like checking whether a row exists, and then executing an insert or update. Data Integration packages can now scale more effectively, making use of available resources and managing the largest enterprise-scale workloads. The new design improves the scalability of runtime into multiple processors.
- **SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS) Persistent Lookups**
The need to perform lookups is one of the most common ETL operations. This is especially prevalent in data warehousing, where fact records need to use lookups to transform business keys to their corresponding surrogates. SSIS increases the performance of lookups to support the largest tables.

Deliver relevant information

- **Analysis Scale and Performance**
SQL Server 2008 drives broader analysis with enhanced analytical capabilities and with more complex

computations and aggregations. New cube design tools help users streamline the development of the analysis infrastructure enabling them to build solutions for optimized performance.

- **Block Computations**

Block Computations provides a significant improvement in processing performance enabling users to increase the depth of their hierarchies and complexity of the computations.

- **Writeback**

New MOLAP enabled writeback capabilities in SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services removes the need to query ROLAP partitions. This provides users with enhanced writeback scenarios from within analytical applications without sacrificing the traditional OLAP performance.

Drive actionable insights

- **Enterprise Reporting Engine**

Reports can easily be delivered throughout the organization, both internally and externally, with simplified deployment and configuration. This enables users to easily create and share reports of any size and complexity.

- **Internet Report Deployment**

Customers and suppliers can effortlessly be reached by deploying reports over the Internet.

- **Manage Reporting Infrastructure**

Increase supportability and the ability to control server behavior with memory management, infrastructure consolidation, and easier configuration through a centralized store and API for all configuration settings.

- **Report Builder Enhancements**

Easily build ad-hoc and author reports with any structure through Report Designer.

- **Built-In Forms Authentication**

Built-in forms authentication enables users to easily switch between Windows and Forms.

- **Report Server Application Embedding**

Report Server application embedding enables the URLs in reports and subscriptions to point back to front-end applications.

- **Microsoft Office Integration**

SQL Server 2008 provides new Word rendering that enables users to consume reports directly from within Microsoft Office Word. In addition, the existing Excel renderer has been greatly enhanced to accommodate the support of features, like nested data regions, sub-reports, as well as merged cell improvements. This lets users maintain layout fidelity and improves the overall consumption of reports from Microsoft Office applications.

- **Predictive Analysis**

SQL Server Analysis Services continues to deliver advanced data mining technologies. Better Time Series support extends forecasting capabilities. Enhanced Mining Structures deliver more flexibility to perform focused analysis through filtering as well as to deliver complete information in reports beyond the scope of the mining model. New cross-validation enables confirmation of both accuracy and stability for results that you can trust. Furthermore, the new features delivered with SQL Server 2008 Data Mining Add-ins for Office 2007 empower every user in the organization with even more actionable insight at the desktop.

Windows Server 2008 – Hyper-V Full Release Now Available!!!

Hyper-V is now fully released and available for download. Download the release version and learn about virtualization technologies from Microsoft at the [Windows Server 2008 Hyper-V Portal](#).

Hyper-V, a key feature of Windows Server 2008, has now released to manufacturing (RTM) and is available for deployment into production environments. A beta of Hyper-V was included with Windows Server 2008 and [this update](#) provides the final release.

Server virtualization, also known as hardware virtualization, is a hot topic in the IT world because of the potential for serious economic benefits. Server virtualization enables multiple operating systems to run on a single physical machine as virtual machines (VMs). With server virtualization, you can consolidate workloads of underutilized server machines onto a smaller number of fully utilized machines. Fewer physical machines can lead to reduced costs through lower hardware, energy, and management overhead, plus the creation of a more dynamic IT infrastructure. To learn more about Microsoft and virtualization, please visit the [Virtualization](#) Web site, or the [Virtualization TechCenter](#).

With Windows Server 2008, everything needed to support server virtualization is available as an integral feature of the operating system as Windows Server 2008 Hyper-V. With Hyper-V as a role, plus flexible licensing policies, it's now easier than ever to take advantage of the cost savings of virtualization through Windows Server 2008:

Microsoft has now released the final version of Hyper-V, which is now available for download. You can download the update for Hyper-V RTM [here](#) and experience the improved stability, usability and performance.

Introducing Windows Server 2008 Hyper-V

Windows Server 2008 Hyper-V, the next-generation hypervisor-based server virtualization technology, allows you to make the best use of your server hardware investments by consolidating multiple server roles as separate virtual machines

(VMs) running on a single physical machine. With Hyper-V, you can also efficiently run multiple different operating systems—Windows, Linux, and others—in parallel, on a single server, and fully leverage the power of x64 computing.

Core Scenarios for Hyper-V

Hyper-V provides a dynamic, reliable, and scalable virtualization platform combined with a single set of integrated management tools to manage both physical and virtual resources, enabling you to create an agile and dynamic data center. Hyper-V enables:

Server Consolidation

Businesses are under pressure to ease management and reduce costs while retaining and enhancing competitive advantages, such as flexibility, reliability, scalability, and security. The fundamental use of virtualization to help consolidate many servers on a single system while maintaining isolation helps address these demands. One of the main benefits of server consolidation is a lower total cost of ownership (TCO), not just from lowering hardware requirements but also from lower power, cooling, and management costs.

Businesses also benefit from server virtualization through infrastructure optimization, both from an asset utilization standpoint as well as the ability to balance workloads across different resources. Improved flexibility of the overall environment and the ability to freely integrate 32-bit and 64-bit workloads in the same environment is another benefit.

Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery

Business continuity is the ability to minimize both scheduled and unscheduled downtime. That includes time lost to routine functions, such as maintenance and backup, as well as unanticipated outages. Hyper-V includes powerful business continuity features, such as live backup and quick migration, enabling businesses to meet stringent uptime and response metrics.

Disaster recovery is a key component of business continuity. Natural disasters, malicious attacks, and even simple configuration problems like software conflicts can cripple services and applications until administrators resolve the problems and restore any backed up data. Leveraging the clustering capabilities of Windows Server 2008, Hyper-V now provides support for disaster recovery (DR) within IT environments and across data centers, using geographically dispersed clustering capabilities. Rapid and reliable disaster and business recovery helps ensure minimal data loss and powerful remote management capabilities.

Testing and Development

Testing and development are frequently the first business functions to take advantage of virtualization technology. Using virtual machines, development staffs can create and test a wide variety of scenarios in a safe, self-contained environment that accurately approximates the operation of physical servers and clients. Hyper-V maximizes utilization of test hardware which can help reduce costs, improve life cycle management, and improve test coverage. With extensive guest OS support and checkpoint features, Hyper-V provides a great platform for your test and development environments.

Dynamic Data Center

Hyper-V, together with your existing system management solutions, such as Microsoft System Center, can help you realize the dynamic data center vision of providing self-managing dynamic systems and operational agility. With features like automated virtual machine reconfiguration, flexible resource control, and quick migration, you can create a dynamic IT environment that uses virtualization to not only respond to problems, but also to anticipate increased demands.

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Security Update

Security Guidance

[Security Tip of the Month: Fine Tune Your Security Audit Policies](#)

Learn how to use auditpol.exe to configure your expanded auditing policy in Windows Vista and Windows Server 2008.

[Windows Server 2008 Security Guide](#)

Take full advantage of the new and improved security technologies and features in Windows Server 2008. Use this guide to create, test, and deploy your security baseline quickly and reliably, harden your server workloads, and evaluate security setting recommendations to meet the requirements of your environment.

[.NET Framework Developer's Guide: SQL Server Security \(ADO.NET\)](#)

The security requirements of a SQL Server database application should be considered at design time, not as an afterthought. Evaluating threats early in the development cycle gives you the opportunity to mitigate potential damage wherever a vulnerability is detected. This article outlines the security features in SQL Server that are relevant for developers, and it provides links to relevant resources for more in-depth information.

[Network Security Access Restrictions in Silverlight 2](#)

Microsoft Silverlight 2 Beta 2 includes support for cross-domain connectivity, which allows an application to access resources from locations other than the site of origin. This is an important feature for enabling Silverlight applications to consume existing services on the Web. This article offers detailed information on how to use the security policy system in Silverlight 2 and describes the policy file formats that are supported.

[Developing Federation-Aware Applications](#)

From the "Top 7 Ways to Light Up Your Apps on Windows Server 2008" series, this article outlines how developers can support users outside the firewall by providing access to applications built around the domain-based identity model.

[Signing Stored Procedures with a Certificate in SQL Server 2005](#)

Signing stored procedures using a certificate is useful when you want to require permissions on the stored procedure but you do not want to explicitly grant a user those rights. Although you can accomplish this task in other ways (such as using the **EXECUTE AS** statement), with a certificate you can use a trace to find the original caller of the stored procedure. This tutorial walks you through how to create a database certificate, a stored procedure, and a user, and then test the process.

This Month's Security Bulletins

Critical

- MS08-046: [Vulnerability in Microsoft Windows Image Color Management System Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(952954\)](#)
- MS08-045: [Cumulative Security Update for Internet Explorer \(953838\)](#)
- MS08-041: [Vulnerability in the ActiveX Control for the Snapshot Viewer for Microsoft Access Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(955617\)](#)
- MS08-043: [Vulnerabilities in Microsoft Excel Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(954066\)](#)
- MS08-051: [Vulnerabilities in Microsoft PowerPoint Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(949785\)](#)
- MS08-051: [Vulnerabilities in Microsoft PowerPoint Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(949785\)](#)
- MS08-044: [Vulnerabilities in Microsoft Office Filters Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(924090\)](#)

Important

- MS08-047: [Vulnerability in IPsec Policy Processing Could Allow Information Disclosure \(953733\)](#)
- MS08-049: [Vulnerabilities in Event System Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(950974\)](#)
- MS08-048: [Security Update for Outlook Express and Windows Mail \(951066\)](#)
- MS08-050: [Vulnerability in Windows Messenger Could Allow Information Disclosure \(955702\)](#)
- MS08-042: [Vulnerability in Microsoft Word Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(955048\)](#)

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