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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

The BIG EASY is Back!

Summary

The Big Easy Offer 2.0 gives you choices on Microsoft products and solutions that fit your needs. For every qualifying product you purchase, Microsoft pays you partner subsidy funds to purchase more products and services from the Microsoft Partner of your choice.

Details

What is a Subsidy?

A subsidy is a check made payable to the Microsoft partner of your choice. This subsidy can be used to enrich and implement your overall solution as it allows you to purchase additional products or services from that Microsoft partner.

There are three factors that can increase your subsidy:

- When you purchase from more than one product group.
- Buying licenses with Software Assurance.
- Purchasing advanced or Enterprise Editions.

How does it work?

- Make a qualifying purchase between Aug. 25 and Dec. 31, 2008.
- Register your purchase by Jan. 30, 2009 at <http://www.microsoftincentives.com/bigeasy/>
- Receive your partner subsidy check from Microsoft.
- Spend your subsidy funds with a qualified Microsoft partner within 90 days of receipt.

Included Products

Included Products Now you can find the right solution for your organization, while earning money back on your purchase in the form of a partner subsidy. For every qualifying product you purchase, Microsoft pays you partner subsidy funds to purchase more products and services from the Microsoft Partner of your choice. The Big Easy Offer 2.0 includes:

- Microsoft® Office
- Microsoft® SQL Server®
- Microsoft® Exchange Server
- Microsoft® Office Project
- Microsoft® Internet Security and Acceleration Server
- Microsoft® Office Visio®
- Microsoft® Office Communications Server
- Microsoft® Expression®
- Microsoft® Office SharePoint® Server
- Microsoft® Visual Studio®
- Microsoft® Forefront™ Security

- Microsoft® Visual Studio® Team Suite
- Microsoft® Windows Server®
- Microsoft® System Center Essentials
- Microsoft® Windows Server® 2008 Datacenter
- Microsoft® System Center Configuration Manager
- Microsoft® Windows® Small Business Server
- Microsoft® Dynamics® CRM
- Microsoft® Windows® Web Server 2008

The complete schedule is available here. Please refer to the Terms & Conditions for purchase qualifications here.

Microsoft Windows XP Notifications

Summary

Microsoft began distribution of an important update to the Windows Genuine Advantage notification experience in the Microsoft Windows® XP Professional operating system in late August. Users of non-genuine copies of Windows XP Professional will see a variety of notifications designed to differentiate their experience when they login such as an “interrupt notification” during login and periodic notifications from the system tray. There are no changes to how customer’s programs will run on their PCs, only the desktop background and color will be affected.

Link to More Information

- www.microsoft.com/genuine

Microsoft Launches "I'm a PC" Ads

Sept. 18, 2008

Today, Microsoft launched the next phase of an ongoing, long-term Windows marketing effort, with the tagline “Life Without Walls.” A key part of the brand initiative are new television and online commercials called “I’m a PC.” The spots feature real people from the diverse community of one billion Windows users around the world – from celebrities to fish mongers – all affirming the sense of creativity and connection that Windows brings to their lives by stating: “I’m a PC.”

Details can be found on Microsoft’s Press Pass Website: <http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/windows/Default.aspx>

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Product Focus

SQL Server 2008 – What’s New?

Microsoft Forefront

Summary

The Microsoft Forefront comprehensive line of business security products provides greater protection and control through integration with your existing IT infrastructure and through simplified deployment, management, and analysis. Forefront is a comprehensive solution that helps provide protection for the client operating system, application servers, and the network edge.

Overview

Today’s security market landscape is complex and fragmented. Poor interoperability, separate management consoles for each product, and a general lack of unified event reporting and analysis all present challenges to the system administrator. In short, network protection is still too difficult to deploy, use, and manage, and it is expensive, as well. The deficiencies are especially problematic as security becomes an increasingly critical enabler for business solutions.

The Microsoft Forefront family of business security products helps provide greater protection and control over the security of your network infrastructure. Microsoft Forefront’s products easily integrate with each other, with your organization’s IT infrastructure, and can be supplemented through interoperable third-party solutions, enabling end-to-end, defense-in-depth security solutions. Simplified management, reporting, analysis, and deployment enable you to more efficiently protect your organization’s information resources and secure access to applications and servers. With highly responsive protection supported by Microsoft technical guidance, Microsoft Forefront helps you confidently meet ever-changing threats and increased business demands.

Forefront is a key component of Microsoft's strategy for providing end-to-end security for business customers. This vision begins at the operating system. With the release of Windows XP SP2 and Windows Server 2003 SP1, vulnerabilities have been greatly reduced, and the upcoming releases of Windows Vista and Windows "Longhorn" Server are centered around robust security. Forefront security products augment the security of these operating systems by providing additional layers of security designed to protect information and control access to business-critical resources and information. The security of this information is further enhanced through robust digital rights management, ensuring that document-specific security and policy compliance is assured even if those documents get into unauthorized hands.

Microsoft's security products are tied together through a powerful identity management infrastructure that provides fine levels of granularity and control. This control is further enabled by a broad set of management and reporting capabilities that offer robust event collection, analysis, and reporting, as well as the tools to create and enforce security best practices. Finally, Microsoft offers a wide array of technical and industry-specific guidance to help businesses configure their security products correctly and effectively.

Forefront Security Solution for the Client

Forefront – Client Security

Details

Unified virus and spyware protection for business desktops, laptops, and server operating systems Built on the same highly successful Microsoft protection technology already used by millions of people worldwide, Forefront Client Security helps guard against emerging threats, such as spyware and rootkits, as well as traditional threats, such as viruses, worms, and Trojan horses.

By delivering simplified administration through central management and providing critical visibility into threats and vulnerabilities, Forefront Client Security helps you protect your business with confidence and efficiency. Forefront Client Security integrates with your existing infrastructure software, such as Microsoft Active Directory, and complements other Microsoft security technologies for enhanced protection and greater control.

Key Benefits

- Unified Protection
 - Integrated solution for real-time virus and spyware protection
 - Includes advanced malware protection technologies
 - Backed by global malware research & response organization
- Simplified Administration
 - Define one policy to manage client agent protection settings
 - Deploy security software and signatures effectively
 - Integrate with your existing infrastructure
- Visibility and Control
 - View insightful reports
 - Stay informed with state assessment scans and security alerts
 - Customize alerts based on incidents and assets

There are two parts to the Forefront Client Security solution:

- The first is the Security Agent—installed on business desktops, laptops, and server operating systems—that provides real-time protection from and scheduled scanning for threats, such as spyware, viruses, and rootkits.
- The second is the central management server, which enables administrators to easily manage and update preconfigured or customized malware protection agents, and to generate reports and alerts about the security status of their environment.

Forefront Security Solutions for Server Applications

Forefront – Security for Exchange Server

Details - Help Protect Exchange Server 2007 from Viruses, Worms, and Spam

Microsoft Forefront Security for Exchange Server integrates multiple scan engines from industry-leading security firms into a comprehensive, layered solution, helping businesses protect their Microsoft Exchange Server messaging environments from viruses, worms, spam, and inappropriate content. The new Forefront Security for Exchange Server with SP1 release is now available and provides support for Exchange Server 2007 SP1 and Windows Server 2008, as well as content filtering and manageability enhancements.

Key Benefits

- Comprehensive Protection

- Ships with and manages multiple scanning engines
- Multi-layered protection in Exchange 2007
- File filtering and premium anti-spam protection
- Optimized Performance
 - Deep integration with Exchange Server 2007
 - Scanning innovations and performance controls
 - Maintains uptime and optimizes performance
- Simplified Management
 - User-friendly configuration and operations management
 - Automated signature updates
 - Centralized reporting, notifications, and alerts

Forefront Security for Exchange Server is an on-premise solution that provides protection for Exchange 2007 Edge, Hub and Mailbox server roles. Customers who purchase Forefront Security for Exchange Server to protect Microsoft Exchange Server 2007 will also be licensed to use Microsoft Antigen for Exchange, Microsoft Antigen for SMTP Gateways, and Antigen Spam Manager to protect their Microsoft Exchange 2000 Server and Microsoft Exchange Server 2003 environments.

Forefront – Security for SharePoint Server

Details: Protection and control for collaboration servers

Help protect Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 and Windows SharePoint Services 3.0 deployments from malicious code, confidential information, and inappropriate content. Microsoft Forefront Security for SharePoint integrates multiple scan engines from industry-leading vendors and content controls to help businesses protect their Microsoft SharePoint collaboration environments by eliminating documents containing malicious code, confidential information, and inappropriate content. The new Forefront Security for SharePoint with SP2 provides support for Windows Server 2008 and includes installable keyword lists in 11 languages for automatically blocking documents containing profanity and discriminatory content.

Key Benefits

- Comprehensive Protection
 - Ships with and manages multiple scanning engines
 - File and content keyword filtering
 - Support for Open XML & IRM-protected docs
- Optimized Performance
 - Deep integration with Office SharePoint Server
 - Scanning innovations and performance controls
 - Maintains uptime and optimizes performance
- Simplified Management
 - User-friendly configuration and operations management
 - Automated signature updates
 - Centralized reporting, notifications, and alerts

Forefront Security for SharePoint is an on-premise solution that provides comprehensive protection for SharePoint document libraries. Customers, who purchase Forefront Security for SharePoint to protect Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 or Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services version 3.0, are also licensed to use Antigen for SharePoint to protect Microsoft SharePoint Portal Server 2003 and Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services 2.0 collaboration environments.

Forefront – Security for Office Communications Server

Details

Microsoft Forefront Security for Office Communications Server helps protect your Office Communications Server environment from infection and downtime, while also reducing corporate liability arising from the sharing of inappropriate content. Forefront Security for Office Communications Server provides:

- **Comprehensive Protection:** Forefront Security for Office Communications Server includes multiple scanning engines from industry-leading security partners to provide comprehensive protection against the latest threats, while file and keyword filtering technologies prevent the sharing of out-of-policy files, unauthorized corporate confidential information, or offensive language in IM conversations.
- **Integrated Security:** Forefront Security for Office Communications Server integrates with Microsoft Office Communications Server to provide high-performance malware scanning optimized for instant messaging environments.

- **Simplified Management:** Forefront Security for Office Communications Server includes automated signature updating and built-in management controls to simplify administration.

Forefront Security for Office Communications Server beta supports Office Communications Server 2007 Standard Edition. Future beta releases will support Office Communications Server 2007 Enterprise Edition. Once available, customers who purchase Forefront Security for Office Communications Server will also be licensed to use Microsoft Antigen for Instant Messaging to protect their Live Communications Server 2005 environments.

Forefront – Server Security Management Console

Details

Microsoft Forefront Server Security Management Console is part of the Microsoft Forefront server security family of products, which help businesses protect their Microsoft Exchange Server 2007, Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007, and Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services 3.0 environments against viruses, worms, spam, and inappropriate content. Forefront Server Security Management Console allows administrators to easily and efficiently manage the configuration, deployment, updating, and reporting for Forefront server security products throughout the enterprise.

Key Benefits

- Simplified Management
 - Centralized, Web-based console
 - Automated signature updates for multiple AV engines
 - Comprehensive reporting
- Comprehensive Protection
 - Rapid update distribution and update failure notification
 - Outbreak response and alerts for Exchange and SharePoint servers
- Optimized Performance
 - Integration with SQL Server 2005 and Windows Server 2003
 - Redundancy maintains server availability
 - Support for Exchange Server 2007 cluster continuous replication cluster

Forefront Security Solutions for Edge Security

Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration Server

Details

What Is ISA Server 2006?

ISA Server 2006 is an integrated edge security gateway that helps protect IT environments from Internet-based threats while providing users fast and secure remote access to applications and data. ISA Server 2006 is available in two versions: standard edition and enterprise edition.

Usage Scenarios

ISA Server 2006 provides value to IT managers, network administrators, and information security professionals who are concerned about the security, performance, manageability, or reduced cost of network operations. ISA Server 2006 can help you:

- Securely Publish Content for Remote Access. ISA Server 2006 helps streamline the implementation providing security for corporate applications accessed over the Internet.
- Connect and Secure Branch Offices. ISA Server 2006 provides a robust way to securely expand corporate networks reducing network costs by leveraging existing network connections.
- Defend Against External and Internal Web-Based Threats. ISA Server 2006 was engineered to deliver stronger security to manage and protect your networks.

Securely Publishing Your Content for Remote Access

Businesses need to provide employees and partners with secure and appropriate remote access to applications, documents, and data from any PC or device.

ISA Server 2006 enables organizations to make their Exchange, SharePoint, and other Web application servers accessible in a more secure way to remote users outside the corporate network. By pre-authenticating users before they gain access to any published servers, inspecting even encrypted traffic at the application layer in a stateful manner, and providing automated publishing tools, ISA Server 2006 makes it easier to provide security for corporate applications accessed over the Internet.

Connecting and Securing Your Branch Offices

Businesses need to connect remote-site branch offices to their corporate headquarters, provide security-enhanced Internet access from branch offices and utilize limited bandwidth more efficiently.

Organizations can use ISA Server 2006 to connect to and secure their branch offices, while efficiently utilizing network bandwidth. By providing HTTP compression, caching of content (including software updates) and site-to-site virtual private network (VPN) capabilities integrated with application-layer filtering, ISA Server 2006 makes it easier to securely expand corporate networks.

Defending Your Environment Against External and Internal Internet-Based Threats

Businesses need to eliminate the damaging effects of malware and attackers through a comprehensive set of tools for scanning and blocking harmful content, files, and Web sites.

ISA Server 2006 can help organizations protect their environments from internally and externally originating Internet-based threats. With a hybrid proxy-firewall architecture, deep content inspection, granular policies, and comprehensive alerting and monitoring capabilities, ISA Server 2006 makes it easier to manage and protect your network.

Microsoft Intelligent Application Gateway

Details

Microsoft's Intelligent Application Gateway (IAG) 2007 with Application Optimizers provides secure socket layer (SSL) virtual private network (VPN), a Web application firewall, and endpoint security management that enable access control, authorization, and content inspection for a wide variety of line-of-business applications.

Together, these technologies provide mobile and remote workers with easy and flexible secure access from a broad range of devices and locations including kiosks, PCs, and mobile devices.

IAG also enables IT administrators to enforce compliance with application and information usage guidelines through a customized remote access policy based on device, user, application, or other business criteria.

- Scalability
 - Supports a large number of users
 - High availability
- Manageability
 - Out-of-the-box configurations
 - SSL VPN portal
 - Logging and reporting
- Access Policy
 - Endpoint compliance checks
 - End user experience

Key benefits include:

- A unique combination of SSL VPN-based access, integrated application protection, and endpoint security management.
- A powerful, Web-application firewall that helps keep malicious traffic out, and sensitive information in.
- Reduced complexity of managing secure access and protecting business assets with a comprehensive, easy to use platform.
- Interoperability with core Microsoft application infrastructure, third-party enterprise systems, and custom in-house tools.

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Security Update

Security Guidance

[Security Tip of the Month: Planning for Hyper-V Security](#)

Securing the virtualization server involves all the measures you take to secure any Windows Server 2008 server role, plus a few extra to help secure the virtual machines, configuration files, and data. This month's tip offers best practices to improve the security of your virtualization servers configured with the Hyper-V role, many of which apply to other virtualization servers as well.

[Hyper-V Planning and Deployment Guide](#)

Gain an initial understanding of the considerations you should take into account when planning to deploy Hyper-V, and find installation and configuration details that will help you deploy it. Learn about virtual networking basics and how to configure the Hyper-V role for remote management on a full installation of Windows Server 2008.

[Microsoft Assessment and Planning Toolkit 3.1](#)

Download this free tool to identify servers for Hyper-V virtualization. This tool also offers migration assessment for Windows Vista, the 2007 Microsoft Office system, Windows Server 2008, and Microsoft SQL Server.

[Ensure Safe Compliance of Your Offline Virtual Machine Library](#)

Download the new Offline Virtual Machine Servicing Tool Solution Accelerator, which automates software updates for virtual machines stored in a library managed by Virtual Machine Manager. This solution works with either System Center Configuration Manager 2007 or Windows Server Update Services.

[Protecting Virtualized Environments with System Center Data Protection Manager 2007](#)

This document discusses how Data Protection Manager offers comprehensive data protection for organizations of all sizes, helping to maintain the business value of your Virtual Server infrastructure by making it better protected and more available.

[Deployment Cookbook: Microsoft Data Protection Manager and VirtualMachine Manager](#)

This step-by-step guide covers installing Microsoft Virtual Server and System Center Virtual Machine Manager; converting a workload to a virtual machine; installing Microsoft System Center Data Protection Manager; and backing up a running virtual machine.

This Month's Security Bulletins

Critical

- MS08-054: [Vulnerability in Windows Media Player Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(954154\)](#)
- MS08-052: [Vulnerabilities in GDI+ Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(954593\)](#)
- MS08-053: [Vulnerability in Windows Media Encoder 9 Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(954156\)](#)
- MS08-055: [Vulnerability in Microsoft Office Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(955047\)](#)

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