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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

Office Professional Plus & Small Business Promotion!

Summary

Save Up to 20% off Office Professional Plus 2007 and Office Small Business 2007.

Details

Save Up to 20% off of Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2007 or Office Small Business 2007 Open Business L-Only licenses purchased from 12/8/2008 to 1/31/2009. Eligible customers may also take advantage of the Big Easy Offer 2.0 before it ends on 12/31/08 for incremental partner subsidy funds to purchase more products and services from PC Connection!

Action

Purchase Microsoft Office Professional Plus (79P-00123) and / or Microsoft Office Small Business Edition (W87-01806) and save up to 20%. This offer is for commercial customer only. Government, Academic, or Charity license are not available for this promotion.

Microsoft Financing – 6 Months No Payments!

Summary

Save your cash! When you use Microsoft Financing to purchase your total IT solution, you won't have a payment due for 6 months.

Details

All Microsoft products and licenses are eligible for the promotion. In addition, Microsoft software, Partner services and other products required to implement a Microsoft technology solution are eligible for the promotion.

With SmartPay from Microsoft, you get the tools you need to make your business grow, without paying a dime for six months. After the promotional period, the remainder of your loan is paid in regular monthly payments aligned with the term of the loan agreement.

Action

Contact your account manager today for a solution that fits your needs. Save your cash - stay on track. The IT you need – the financing to make IT work. SmartPay. Get IT.

Microsoft System Center & Windows HPC Server 2008 – Better Together Program!

Summary

For a limited time, receive discounts on Licenses with Software Assurance for Microsoft System Center Server Management Suite Enterprise when you purchase together with Windows HPC Server 2008.

Details

- Microsoft® System Center Server Management Suite Enterprise (SMSE) managing your HPC environment, you can capture and aggregate knowledge about your HPC infrastructure, policies, processes, and best practices.
- Customers who purchase Windows HPC Server 2008 or Windows Server 2008 HPC Edition during the program period and customers who are entitled to Windows HPC Server 2008 or Windows Server 2008 HPC Edition licenses via their Software Assurance benefits during the program period are eligible to purchase Microsoft System Center Server Management Suite Enterprise licenses with Software Assurance at a discounted price.
- Contact your account manager today for additional details on the offer.

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Product Focus

Microsoft System Center 2008 – In the Data Center

Overview – What is Microsoft System Center?

System Center solutions help IT pros manage the physical and virtual information technology (IT) environments across data centers, client computers, and devices. Using these integrated and automated management solutions, IT organizations can be more productive service providers to their businesses. With the strongest partner ecosystem, the most compelling licensing model, and the best economics, System Center solutions provide a low total cost of ownership and a high return on investment. The functionality and economics of System Center solution combine to provide the fastest time to value while building a more agile IT infrastructure.

The Goal – Dynamic IT Management

Dynamic IT is Microsoft's long-term strategy for providing critical technologies that enable IT and development organizations to become more strategic to their businesses. A dynamic infrastructure is Microsoft's vision for what an agile business looks like—a business in which IT works closely with business to meet the demands of a rapidly changing and adaptable environment. Dynamic IT is Microsoft's technology strategy for products and solutions that help businesses enhance the dynamic capability of their people, processes, and IT infrastructures.

The Role of System Center in Dynamic IT

Microsoft System Center solutions play a central role in Microsoft's vision for helping IT organizations benefit from self-managing, dynamic systems. System Center solutions capture and aggregate knowledge about the infrastructure, policies, processes, and best practices so that IT pros can optimize IT structures to reduce costs, improve application availability, and enhance service delivery.

These integrated and automated management solutions enable IT organizations to be a more productive service providers to their businesses. Aiming to enable self-managing, dynamic systems, System Center solutions close the gap between development, operations, and IT—connecting people, processes, and tools—by evaluating dependencies and optimizing business process performance from deep inside the operating system, applications, and composite services and workflows.

Solutions for Dynamic Data Centers

- Configuration Management
- Server Compliance
- End-to-End Monitoring
- Data Protection and Recovery

Configuration Management:

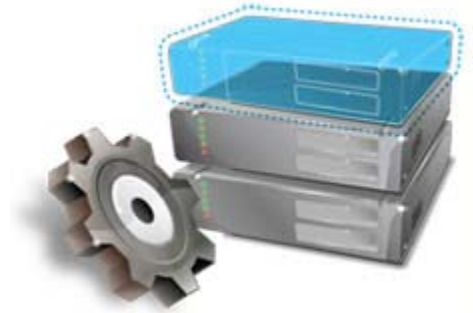
The System Center data center configuration management solution provides centralized, automated software provisioning, updating, and management of both physical and virtual servers.

Implementing the System Center data center configuration management solution in a data center can result in reduced costs through decreased power consumption, optimized IT resources, and improved efficiency, and allow the data center

to meet its data and computing needs. The solution provides the configuration management capabilities to allow you to meet the expanding needs of the data center

Provide centralized, automated configuration management for the data center

- Server provisioning and updating from the operating system to applications and updates or fixes
- Virtual server management to enable server consolidation and rapid response to changing application demand
- Meet cost and business requirements of server configuration data center
- Efficient ongoing configuration management for all servers, physical and virtual
- Optimized use of resources to meet power and space consumption goals through server consolidation



Server Compliance:

The System Center data center server compliance solution assists with IT compliance on the servers in the data center through configuration controls, consolidated reporting, and a centralized collection of security events.

Implementing the System Center data center server compliance solution in a data center supports compliance with business policies and regulatory requirement, satisfies auditors, and improves server security.

Support IT compliance on the servers in the Data Center

- Configuration controls to drive compliance with requirements such as Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX), or Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA)
- Consolidated collection and reporting across servers of security events such as account lockouts, privilege changes, asset inventory etc.
- Comprehensive security and identify and access management that is integrated with configuration management

Efficiently meeting the server compliance challenges

- Configuration controls enforced across all data center physical and virtual servers
- Security event auditing requirements can be met without excessive cost
- Reduced risk of server security or access issues



End-to-End Monitoring:

The System Center data center end-to-end monitoring solution provides end-to-end visibility into the data center through an open and extensible platform.

Implementing the System Center data center end-to-end monitoring solution in the data center helps ensure that IT services, applications, and servers run smoothly and are meeting service levels for optimal uptime and responsiveness.

Monitoring the complete data center server environment

- Proactive platform monitoring across servers and operating systems
- Application and service level monitoring across line of business application, including user perspective monitoring
- Interoperability and extensibility through use of open standards and flexible platform

Meet performance and availability SLA requirements

- Take action based on application specific knowledge before users are impacted
- Monitor complete application or service to ensure all aspects of user experience are optimized



Data Protection and Recovery:

The System Center data center data protection and recovery solution delivers data protection and recovery, backup, and reliability capabilities of applications and services running in physical and virtual environments.

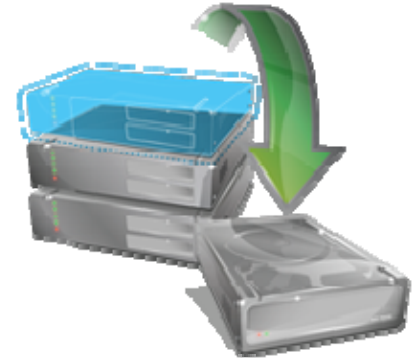
Implementing the System Center data center data protection and recovery solution in data centers helps simplify storage management, provide higher availability, and improve responsiveness.

Protecting key data center workloads and applications

- Backup and restore physical and virtual server environments, including lossless application recovery.
- Disaster recovery and business continuity through server virtualization

Reduce risk and increase data center application availability

- Continuous protection and rapid and reliable recovery, resulting in a more resilient and available data center
- Improved failover capabilities and streamlined backup and provisioning processes



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Security Update

Security Guidance

[Security Tip of the Month: Security Considerations in High-Performance Computing](#)

This article describes how you can monitor your traffic with either real-time logging or on-demand reporting. Learn how you can use new fields on the dashboard and real-time logging to instantly see if the traffic contains a piece of malware, the threat level, and whether it was cured. You can also see how to use new reports to work proactively to investigate trends and identify systems that may be compromised.

[Technical Overview of Windows HPC Server 2008](#)

Because HPC clusters are being adopted by a broad range of mainstream users for mission-critical applications, security and integration with the existing infrastructure are essential. Read this technical overview to learn how Windows HPC Server 2008 uses the Active Directory service to enable role-based security for all cluster jobs and administration.

[Windows HPC Server 2008: Using MS-MPI](#)

MPI and MPI2 are widely accepted specifications for managing messaging in high-performance clusters. Among the most widely accepted implementations of Message Passing Interface (MPI) is the open-source Argonne National Laboratory MPICH2 reference implementation. At the API level, MS MPI is identical to the more than 160 APIs implemented by MPICH2. At the same time, MS MPI adds enhanced security and process management capabilities for enterprise environments and a new execution-tracing feature for Windows HPC Server 2008. Read this white paper for more details.

[HPC Pack 2008 SDK](#)

Microsoft HPC Server 2008 provides secure, scalable cluster resource management, a job scheduler, and an MPI stack for parallel programming. Download the Microsoft HPC Pack 2008 SDK to get the tools and content necessary to write parallel applications for the Windows HPC Server 2008 platform.

[Securing the HPC Session](#)

HPC uses HPC sessions to support the service-oriented architecture (SOA) programming model based on Windows Communication Foundation (WCF). The SOA programming model is ideal for writing interactive, parallel applications that provide near real-time calculation of complex algorithms, such as Monte Carlo simulations and BLAST searches. Read this topic for tips on how to secure the HPC session.

[Use Windows Server 2008 to Develop Federation-Aware Applications](#)

Extend Web applications inside your firewall to vendors, partners, and other trusted organizations with secure, authenticated, and controlled external access.

This Month's Security Bulletins

Critical:

- MS08-071: [Vulnerabilities in GDI Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(956802\)](#)
- MS08-075: [Vulnerabilities in Windows Search Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(959349\)](#)
- MS08-073: [Cumulative Security Update for Internet Explorer \(958215\)](#)
- MS08-070: [Vulnerabilities in Visual Basic 6.0 Runtime Extended Files \(ActiveX Controls\) Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(932349\)](#)
- MS08-072: [Vulnerabilities in Microsoft Office Word Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(957173\)](#)
- MS08-074: [Vulnerabilities in Microsoft Office Excel Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(959070\)](#)

Important:

- MS08-077: [Vulnerability in Microsoft Office SharePoint Server Could Cause Elevation of Privilege \(957175\)](#)
- MS08-076: [Vulnerabilities in Windows Media Components Could Allow Remote Code Execution \(959807\)](#)

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Microsoft Events

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Promotions

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