



**Fact Sheet: Windows 7 for IT Professionals**

*In the enterprise, the role of the PC is evolving just as quickly as it is in the home. With Windows 7, IT professionals have more ways to help their people get more done — more securely and from more locations — while still maintaining control over increasingly complex computing environments.*

**Windows 7 is your PC simplified.**

**MAKES USERS PRODUCTIVE ANYWHERE**

Windows 7 helps end users to be productive no matter where they are, or where the data they need resides.

**ENHANCES SECURITY AND CONTROL**

Windows 7 builds on the security foundation of Windows Vista, and delivers increased flexibility for IT professionals helping secure PCs and data.

**STREAMLINES PC MANAGEMENT**

Whether IT professionals manage and deploy desktops, laptops or virtual environments, Windows 7 makes the job easier and enables them to leverage the same tools and skills they use with Windows Vista.

The Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack, which is updated at least once a year, and available for purchase for Software Assurance (SA) customers completes the enterprise experience. By using Windows 7 and the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack together, enterprises can optimize their desktop infrastructure and gain the flexibility to address their unique business needs.

**Top Features for IT Pros**

<p><b>Direct Access</b></p> <p>Flexible access to applications and data when out of the office is an essential component of any enterprise IT strategy. Direct Access, a new feature in Windows 7, enables remote users to access the corporate network anytime they have an Internet connection, without the extra step of initiating a virtual private network connection. For IT professionals, Direct Access simplifies IT management by providing an “always managed” infrastructure, in which computers outside the office can remain healthy, managed and updated.</p> <p><i>(Note: To take advantage of Direct Access, IT professionals need to deploy Windows Server 2008 R2 and implement Internet protocol (IP) v6 and IP security (IPsec).)</i></p>	<p><b>Search Federation</b></p> <p>Search Federation in Windows 7 provides out-of-the-box support for searching beyond the user’s PC. IT professionals can easily enable search engines, document repositories (such as SharePoint sites), Web applications, and proprietary data stores to be searched from Windows 7. This enables end users to search the corporate intranet or the Web as easily as they can search their local files — all from within the same familiar Windows interface.</p>	<p><b>BranchCache</b></p> <p>Windows 7 introduces BranchCache, which caches content from remote file and Web servers in branch locations so that users can more quickly access this information. BranchCache supports the same network protocols that are commonly used in enterprises — namely, HTTP(S) and small and midsize businesses (SMBs) — so that any applications based on these protocols can automatically benefit from the technology. BranchCache also supports network security protocols (such as secure sockets layer and IPsec), ensuring that only authorized clients can access requested data.</p> <p><i>(Note: To take advantage of BranchCache, IT professionals need to deploy Windows Server 2008 R2.)</i></p>
<p><b>Deployment Image Servicing and Management</b></p> <p>The Deployment Image Servicing and Management (DISM) tool in Windows 7 enables IT professionals to build and service operating system images using a single consolidated toolset. With DISM, IT professionals can update operating system images with software updates; add optional components; add, enumerate and remove third-party device drivers; add language packs and apply international settings; and maintain an inventory of offline images that includes drivers, packages, features and software updates. DISM also can be used to manage Windows Vista system images.</p>	<p><b>BitLocker and BitLocker To Go</b></p> <p>BitLocker drive encryption functionality in Windows 7 Ultimate and Enterprise delivers an improved experience for IT professionals and end users, including the ability to right-click on a drive to enable BitLocker protection, automatic creation of the required hidden boot partition, and improved key management. Windows 7 also introduces BitLocker To Go, which provides data protection for removable storage devices such as USB flash drives. BitLocker To Go gives IT professionals control over how removable storage devices can be used. For example, IT professionals can require data protection for writing to any removable storage device while allowing unprotected storage devices to be used in a read-only mode.</p>	