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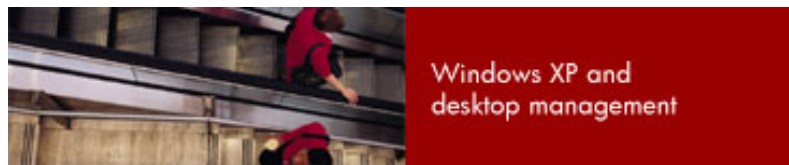
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#### Overview

Windows XP Professional is a solid network client operating system that deserves consideration in any Windows 2000 or Windows 2003 Active Directory network. Windows XP Professional offers numerous benefits, including:

- Less downtime than previous Windows client operating systems
- Nearly effortless mobile computing and remote connectivity
- Integrated technical support with Remote Assistance
- System Restore, which enables complete reversal of system changes and software installations
- Encrypting File System (EFS) to protect locally stored documents and files
- A more efficient and intuitive desktop, Start menu, and toolbar design that improves productivity and reduces the learning curve
- A wide range of networking features from connection options to resource sharing

As an IT professional or possibly an organization manager, you may ask "Why should I upgrade all my systems to Windows XP Professional?" The answer is to improve productivity, reduce support costs, and maximize the potential of your existing IT infrastructure. First and foremost, standardizing all desktop and mobile clients on a single OS, namely Windows XP Professional, greatly reduces the breadth of support required to maintain the IT environment. Furthermore, with a single client OS base, you can readily deploy upgrades, patches, and security policy changes by modifying a central configuration store (i.e., an Active Directory GPO attached to a domain or organizational unit containing client systems). It doesn't get much easier than that.

Windows XP Professional makes managing an enterprise's client base easier and more cost-effective than ever before. In numerous case studies, Windows XP Professional has shown itself to reduce IT costs and maximize investments in personnel. In financial terms, the return on investment (ROI) of a Windows XP Professional client base is approximately 200% annually within 13 months.

Most clients that currently support Windows 98, Windows NT, or Windows 2000 require minimal or no hardware upgrades to run Windows XP Professional. If a hardware upgrade is required, it's usually the addition of RAM. From a management or administrative perspective, Windows XP Professional offers numerous remote network management tools, supports automated network-based installation, and fully integrates into both Windows 2000 and Windows 2003 Active Directory domain environments.

This IT Guides focuses on the details you need to make the business decision to upgrade to Windows XP Professional. The sections of the guide include:

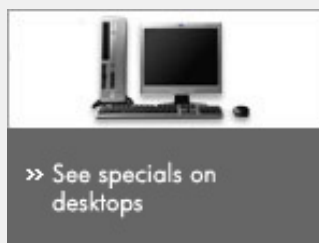
- » **Domain integration:** understand what it takes to integrate clients running Windows XP Professional into your domain.
- » **Automated installation:** learn more about automating Windows XP installations.
- » **Security:** review Windows XP's security features.
- » **Important benefits:** find out more about Windows XP's key benefits and how they can impact your bottom line.
- » **Product information:** get more information about HP products that can support your Windows XP integration.
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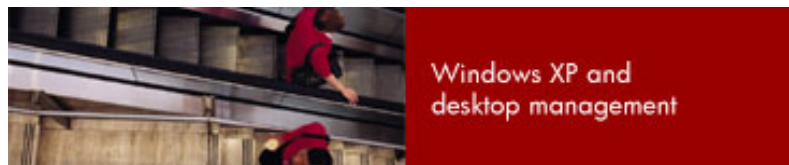
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#### Domain integration

Windows XP Professional is a client OS that fully supports Active Directory (AD) and can therefore participate in a Windows 2000- or Windows 2003-based Active Directory domain network. In Active Directory integration, the client OS must be a member of the domain to allow the computer itself to gain access to any AD resources. Also, only AD-defined user accounts can use domain member clients to authenticate themselves to the network to access AD resources.

Active Directory integration also means all of your clients fully support and comply with any and all configuration and security settings defined for their AD container. This includes group policy objects (GPOs), IPSec, Kerberos, L2TP for VPNs, Distributed File System (Dfs) support, IntelliMirror, Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) support, and secure channel security protocols (such as SSL, PCT, and TLS).

The most significant benefit of Active Directory integration is centralized policy-based management of clients. Through GPOs and AD containers (sites, domains, and organizational units), you can fully control how a system operates, what functions it can perform, and what features a user can access. Furthermore, you can manage GPO clients remotely. No matter where a client exists physically or logically on the network, GPOs can be applied. This includes remote connections via dial-up or VPN.

Windows XP includes numerous predefined security templates and GPOs that you can instantly employ against your network clients. Furthermore, you can fully customize any setting within these pre-existing policies, or you can create unique policies of your own. The possibilities of management and control within this flexible and expandable management solution are practically endless. Any aspect of Windows XP Professional that can be altered, configured, adjusted, or manipulated via the registry can be included in this policy-based management solution. Additionally, you can distribute, execute, or automatically install new software, patches, and customized scripts to provide even more capabilities.

Most client users find data management and system configuration to be difficult tasks. With Windows XP Professional, this management arena is easier and more powerful than ever before. The IntelliMirror features originally found in Windows 2000 are fully supported and integrated into Windows XP Professional. IntelliMirror is a feature of Windows 2000 and Windows 2003 Active Directory environments which offers three primary benefits: user data management, software installation and maintenance, and user settings management.

User data management ensures that data is protected from unauthorized access and loss, is available offline, and is available from any computer on the network. This aspect of IntelliMirror employs the technologies of Active Directory, Group Policy, Offline Files, Synchronization Manager, Disk Quotas, and Folder Redirection. User data management ensures that productivity is not hindered by changes to how or where a user connects to the network. User data is centrally stored on a network server and mapped to local access points whenever the user logs in. No matter where users perform their work -- whether from a LAN client system, a remote connection via dial-up or VPN, or on an offline system -- they can easily access their data via storage points that appear local to the users. Active Directory actively maintains the relationships between local and remote data. Disk Quotas can be used to control disk space usage.

Software installation and maintenance focuses on the distribution, installation, updating, maintenance, and removal of software throughout a network. This aspect of IntelliMirror employs the technologies of Active Directory, Group Policy, Windows Installer, and the Add/Remove Programs applet in the Control Panel. Software installation and maintenance ensures that clients on the network maintain updated applications and stay current on all available service packs and hotfixes. This feature of IntelliMirror greatly reduces the work required to maintain a consistent software environment.

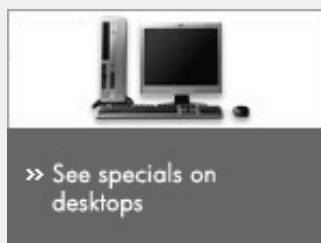
User settings management focuses on managing the desktop environment of users. This aspect of IntelliMirror employs the technologies of Active Directory, Group Policy, Offline Files, and Roaming User Profiles. User settings management is more than just a roaming profile -- it gives users a seamless desktop environment no matter where they connect to the network. Furthermore, it allows administrators to control whether users can customize their desktops, control what languages are available, and manage accessibility options.

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IntelliMirror is by far the most sought after feature of Windows 2000 Server for the management of Windows 2000 Professional and Windows XP Professional clients. From roaming user environments to managing software distribution to maintaining essential network data, IntelliMirror offers solid solutions to the difficult problems of client management.

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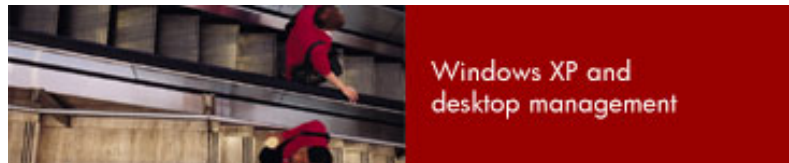
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#### Automated installation

Windows XP Professional, as a client OS in a Windows 2000 Server or Windows 2003 Server Active Directory domain environment, offers so much more than centralized client management services. One of these additional benefits is automated installation.

Automated installation refers to the ability to reduce the need for human intervention in the initial installation of Windows XP Professional onto a new system. However, you can also use automated installation to upgrade systems, clone systems, and distribute hot fixes and service packs to clients.

Windows XP Professional supports a wide variety of initial installation options that either eliminate or greatly reduce the need for human intervention during the installation process. Plus, most of these automated installation options shorten the installation time by as much as 75% over that of a fully manual installation of the OS. You can install Windows XP Professional using an answer script alone or using an answer script with a uniqueness database file. You can write these scripts by hand or use Setup Manager to create these scripts via an easy to follow step-by-step wizard. Use scripted installations to perform fresh installations or to upgrade an existing OS to Windows XP Professional.

If you want to clone an existing installation, you can use the Sysprep tool. Sysprep is an automated installation tool that prepares an existing system for duplication or cloning. Sysprep does not provide the actual duplication or cloning service. It does configure the OS so when it is copied onto another system, it can boot properly and be uniquely identified to the domain. You must use a drive duplication or cloning tool, such as Norton's Ghost, to copy the system prepared by Sysprep onto a hard drive of another computer. The remarkable benefit of Sysprep is that it allows you to fully duplicate a client system including all of its installed software and every configuration setting.

Another automated installation option is Remote Installation Service (RIS). Remote Installation Service is part of Windows 2000 Server and Windows 2003 Server. The service constructs system images, which can be installed onto new systems over the network. In fact, if the destination client system has the correct hardware, you can start the installation of the new client by simply connecting the network cable and powering the target system. You can use RIS to deploy "factory sealed" versions of OSs, versions of OSs updated with slipstreamed service packs, or even fully configured desktops (by employing Sysprep).

In addition to automating the initial installation or even upgrade installation, Windows XP Professional also supports many improved update deployment options. These include slipstream installation of service packs, scripted deployment of multiple hotfixes, Automatic Updates, and Software Update Services (SUS).

Slipstreaming service packs is a means by which a service pack can be integrated with the original distribution files for an OS to create an updated collection of source files. You install the OS using the updated set of source files, which includes the service pack.

Keeping up with hotfixes to keep security and productivity vulnerabilities at bay can often be a daunting task. One deterrent to installing hotfixes as they are made available is that they usually require a reboot of the system to complete the installation. Multiple hotfixes can result in multiple reboots, which causes longer downtime and a higher requirement for administrator oversight throughout the hotfix installation process. However, with Qchain, you can install multiple hotfixes sequentially with only a single final reboot. Any administrator with a few basic scripting skills can employ Qchain to update one or 10,000 clients with numerous hotfixes via a script distributed by a GPO.

Automatic Updates is an enhancement to Windows Update in which hotfixes, service packs, new drivers, and software updates from Microsoft can be downloaded and installed automatically on an administratively defined schedule. Administrators can configure Automatic Updates via GPOs to retain complete control over client system updates.

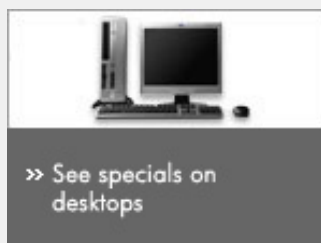
Software Update Services is a new solution from Microsoft that brings Windows Update into your enterprise network. The tool deploys your own internal version of Windows Update. As the

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network administrator, you gain complete control over what updates are viewable, accessible, downloadable, and installable to all clients. Use Software Update Services to test new updates before distribution and to create unique distribution groups. Software Update Services is a flexible update management system that manages update distribution for any Windows client or server systems for any network size.

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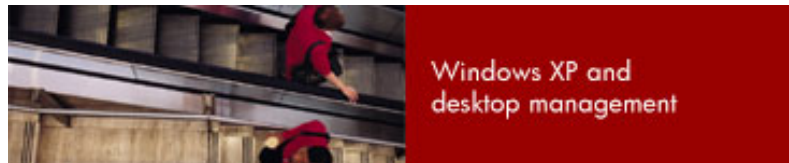
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### Security

Security has always been important in business environments. It is not possible to describe all of the security features of Windows XP Professional in this brief. However, we can point out several of the outstanding aspects of its multifaceted security.

Windows XP Professional fully supports the Windows 2000 and Windows 2003 Active Directory domain environments and therefore is governed by and takes advantage of the resultant security benefits. The security accounts management system of the Active Directory domain controllers manages domain client identification and authentication. When a user attempts to log on to a network client, they must provide at a minimum a valid user name and password before access is granted. However, more stringent authentication factors can be required such as security certificates, smart cards, and biometrics. Once authenticated, user access to local and networked resources is controlled via authorization defined by NTFS-based permissions. If users are not specifically granted access to resources, they are denied access by default. You can configure Windows XP Professional to record an audit trail of every significant activity that occurs on or through it from the moment the system powers on.

Windows XP Professional supports numerous security mechanisms, including:

- EFS
- Restriction of software installation via GPOs
- Controlled and monitored local and network access
- Support for Certificate Services
- Internet Connection Firewall
- Support for IPSec and VPNs
- Support for smart cards and biometric authentication
- Support for Kerberos v5

Windows XP Professional offers you the most secure desktop operating system available from Microsoft.

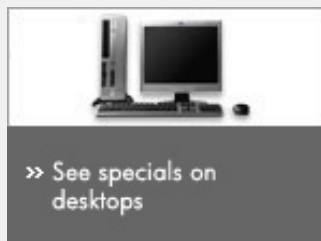
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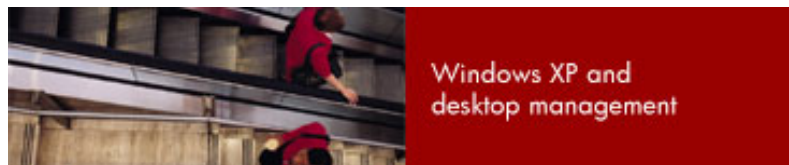
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#### Important benefits

In addition to Active Directory integration, security, ease of installation, and cost benefits, Windows XP Professional offers many other benefits.

You manage Windows 2000 and Windows 2003 domains using tools loaded into a Microsoft Management Console (MMC) window. You can access these tools over the network directly or over the Internet via Internet Information Server. Windows XP Professional also includes the MMC and therefore can use server and domain management tools. Thus, Windows XP Professional can serve as a client-based network administration workstation.

Windows XP Professional supports two remote connectivity tools: Remote Assistant and Remote Desktop. Remote Assistant allows a help desk operator to view the desktop of another system over the network. If the user needs more than just oversight, the remote help desk operator can take control of the user's desktop and perform operations and activities. Remote Assistant allows the help desk staff to support a greater number of users without geographic restrictions. Remote Assistant eliminates the need for help desk personnel to physically transport themselves to the user's work area to provide technical assistance. Users can use Remote Desktop on a remote client system to access and control their LAN client system in a way similar to that of Terminal Services. With Remote Desktop, a traveling user connecting into the office LAN over a VPN can perform any task on their LAN-based client system. The monitor, mouse, and keyboard of the remote system are used to control the LAN system as if you were sitting at your LAN client. It's like being able to take your primary client's mouse and keyboard with you as you travel.

Offline Files is a mechanism that enables mobile users to take network resources with them when they are disconnected from the LAN. Offline Files caches a copy of selected network files onto the local hard drive of the mobile client system. Access to Offline Files occurs in the exact same way as if you were still connected to the LAN. Once the system is reconnected to the LAN, Offline Files has an intelligent synchronization manager that prevents data loss and ensures that the latest version of a file is always available.

The Windows XP Professional Help and Support Center offers numerous ways for end users to obtain help, documentation, or information on how to perform specific activities. The Help and Support Center can access Microsoft's Web site to retrieve updated or new information.

System Restore is a recovery mechanism that enables administrators to roll back a system to a previous state. You can configure System Restore to automatically record a restoration file before and after any significant system change, such as software installation, patch application, driver update, and so on. With System Restore, returning a system to a previous state is easy and fast.

Windows XP Professional attempts to minimize application problems by supporting execution environments from previous versions of Windows and DOS. Known as Application Compatibility, any software product designed for a previous version of Windows can be launched in such a way that it operates in a simulated environment of Windows 95, 98/SE, NT 4.0 (SP5), or 2000.

Windows XP Professional natively supports wireless networking. Expanding the flexibility of your work environment is effortless when wireless network connections are used. Windows XP Professional is fully capable of taking advantage of wireless networking and imposing strong security on wireless communications.

#### Making the decision to upgrade

Windows XP Professional is a solid network client for any organization with a Windows 2000 Server or Windows 2003 Server Active Directory network. Migrating client systems to Windows XP Professional is a wise business decision based on cost, security, and capabilities.

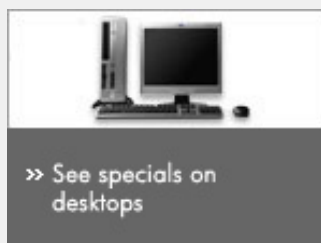
Most PC vendors offer the option to pre-install Windows XP Professional on newly purchased client systems. Upgrading existing systems to Windows XP Professional requires some planning and testing, but ultimately the effort will be greatly rewarded. Windows XP Professional offers a clean and smooth upgrade path from Windows 98/SE, Windows Me, Windows NT Workstation 4.0, and Windows 2000 Professional. Systems running Windows 95, Windows 3.1, any server version of Windows, or any evaluation version of Windows requires a fresh installation -- you

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cannot upgrade directly to Windows XP Professional.

Windows XP Professional requires the following minimal system requirements:

- 233 MHz Intel or compatible CPU
- 64 MB RAM
- 1.5 GB hard drive space
- Super VGA (800x600) video display capability
- CD-ROM/DVD drive
- Keyboard
- Mouse or other pointing device

These minimal requirements are not extravagant, and most PCs currently used as Windows clients on a network meet or exceed them. However, exceeding the minimal requirements improves system performance. Whenever possible, the following system configuration is recommended:

- 500+ MHz Intel or compatible CPU
- 128 MB RAM
- 10 GB hard drive space

When making the decision to migrate to Windows XP Professional as your standardized client operating system, you should consider one final aspect: users. Users need to know how to use a system before they can be productive. Fortunately, even though Windows XP Professional offers numerous benefits and features not found in previous versions of Windows, its basic operation and functions are not significantly different from Windows 98 or Windows 2000. Users with experience on Windows 98 or Windows 2000 are able to immediately leverage their existing Windows expertise onto Windows XP Professional. After a few minutes of learning the layout of the Start menu, users will be more productive on Windows XP Professional clients than they were on Windows 98 or Windows 2000 systems. After only a few days of working on an updated client system, most users will be able to take advantage of the enhanced features, programs, and capabilities of Windows XP Professional.

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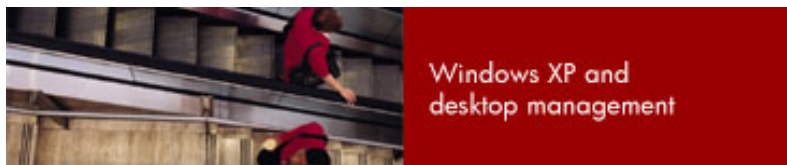
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