

SIMPLIFY MIGRATION TO MICROSOFT WINDOWS SERVER 2008



For many enterprises, the biggest hurdle in upgrading to the Microsoft® Windows Server® 2008 OS is the complexity of the migration process. Dell helps simplify IT and reduce risk with comprehensive service offerings and a validated, repeatable approach that includes seamless support for integrated Microsoft applications on Dell™ servers.

Technology moves fast—sometimes so fast that IT departments struggle to keep up with change and benefit from the advantages it can provide. Organizations are spending increasing amounts of time and money configuring systems, installing drivers, and maintaining servers when they could be channeling resources into projects that accelerate business growth. Microsoft Windows Server 2008 offers powerful new functionality and security enhancements designed to streamline business operations—but first, organizations must make the move.¹

Dell has teamed up with Microsoft to collaborate on a wide array of initiatives, including joint engineering and testing, to design solutions that are easy to manage and can integrate seamlessly into existing IT environments. This includes Windows Server 2008, and now Dell helps simplify the process of upgrading to Windows Server 2008 by providing an end-to-end service that offers technical advice in a workshop scenario, a Comprehensive Readiness Assessment to determine options and requirements prior to migration, Structured Solution Design based on specific organizational requirements, and a validated, repeatable migration process. Best practices recommend that a proof-of-concept approach be taken to test the new solution before migrating to a production environment. Through this framework, the Dell

approach equips IT managers with the resources and flexibility to adapt to change as it occurs.

BENEFITING FROM THE DELL AND MICROSOFT PARTNERSHIP

As a Microsoft Gold Certified partner, Dell provides a single point of contact for everything from software and hardware to infrastructure consulting and technical support through Dell ProSupport. The result of this partnership is cost-effective, end-to-end Microsoft solutions designed on standardized infrastructure that scales to deliver bottom-line business value from the desktop to the data center.

Dell provides seamless ordering, installation, integration, and support for Microsoft applications on Dell infrastructure. Dell Infrastructure Consulting further extends these benefits with certified Microsoft professionals that provide advice, design, planning, and integration for Microsoft solutions on Dell platforms. Finally, Dell complements deployment and maintenance capabilities for Microsoft by helping ensure that an organization's IT team is trained to manage the environment.

Dell and Microsoft actively participate in several reciprocal areas of joint development: Microsoft Windows® Unified Data Storage Server (the Dell PowerVault™ NX1950 offering), Web services, Windows Server 2008, Exchange, and SQL Server®

Related Categories:

Dell Services

Microsoft

Microsoft Windows Server 2008

Operating system (OS)

Operating system migration

Quest Software

Visit DELL.COM/PowerSolutions for the complete category index.

¹ For more information on how migrating to Microsoft Windows Server 2008 can help simplify IT, see "Getting Ready for Microsoft Windows Server 2008," by Laine Tsujii; Stephen Miller; Ben May; Jeanne Feldkamp; Jemilson Pierrelouis, Ph.D.; and Tom Kolnowski, in *Dell Power Solutions*, May 2008, DELL.COM/Downloads/Global/Power/ps2q08-20080305-CoverStory.pdf.

software. Dell also works closely with Microsoft to test beta code and optimize hardware configurations. Dell Consulting experts offer field-tested experience based on the advanced deployment of Windows Server 2008 in production environments for organizations around the world as part of the Windows Server 2008 Early Adopter Program.

Dell also provides organizations with product validation of Microsoft solutions on Dell platforms. Solution and product validation is performed jointly through the Microsoft Product Development group and Dell Enterprise Solution Centers, where a dedicated Dell team focuses on solutions testing, verification, and certification of the Microsoft solution stack.

The Dell Infrastructure Consulting Microsoft Practice is focused on Microsoft's core advanced infrastructure stack, which includes messaging functions through Exchange, Microsoft Office SharePoint® software, Unified Communications, and office worker optimization software; server functions through OS upgrades; and SQL Server management. Dell and Microsoft solutions are designed to complement each other—for example, Unified Communications is closely tied to the Microsoft Active Directory® directory service, while SharePoint is closely tied to SQL Server and Unified Communications. Because the Dell Infrastructure Consulting Microsoft Practice is global, Dell distills best practices and knowledge gained worldwide in proof-of-concept tests and implementations. This approach helps ensure a validated, repeatable deployment and migration process for Microsoft solutions.

Dell further helps simplify Windows Server 2008 migration through factory integration, designed to deliver a customer-verified solution as part of the build-to-order model. Through this service, organizations can receive Dell equipment with the Microsoft solution stack included. Dell has also extended the concept of factory integration to a process that allows businesses to securely extend their networks into the Dell factory

environment—enabling real-time image deployment that integrates an organization's operational environment at the point of production.

ASSESSING INFRASTRUCTURE PRIOR TO MIGRATION

Dell and Quest Software have worked together extensively on systems migration projects, using Quest software to enable migration and implementation of Microsoft solutions. For example, Dell uses Quest Migration Manager for Active Directory to help automate the migration of operating systems to Windows Server 2008. Throughout a customer engagement, Dell also uses tools from Quest to help detect and diagnose problems with Active Directory as well as automatically synchronize, restructure, and migrate Active Directory to Dell design specifications. Dell consultants have extended the use of Quest software to include Exchange Server 2007, SharePoint, and several related migration scenarios.

STREAMLINING MIGRATION WITH STRUCTURED DESIGN

With the Microsoft partnership and Quest migration software, Dell Infrastructure Consulting extends an organization's IT team and helps free valuable human resources to innovate on projects that advance enterprise goals. Dell helps simplify the migration process to Windows Server 2008 by breaking it down into a four-step methodology (see Figure 1):

1. Workshop: Dell consultants help IT administrators understand how Windows Server 2008 can benefit their organization. The workshop session focuses on the simplification and adoption of Windows Server 2008 usage scenarios, including remote infrastructure with Active Directory, high availability, and presentation virtualization or Terminal Services. Dell also determines enterprise objectives and the current state of IT infrastructure relative to the proposed usage scenarios. A Dell solution architect

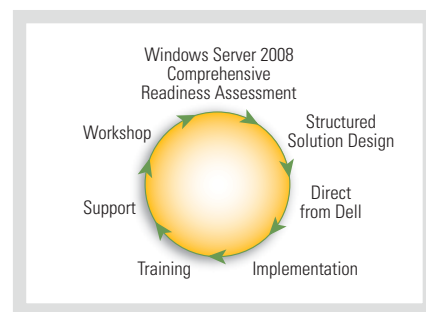


Figure 1. The Dell Infrastructure Consulting Microsoft Practice helps simplify migration

discusses design points, then concludes with a brief planning exercise.

2. Windows Server 2008 Comprehensive Readiness Assessment:

The assessment helps organizations make informed decisions and explores the implications of transitioning to Windows Server 2008. A detailed technical and operational overview is provided as well as a validation of the current Active Directory infrastructure and dependent services prior to migration, by using Quest software to streamline on-site analysis.

3. Structured Solution Design:

The Structured Solution Design produces a validated OS architecture based on specific organizational requirements. This design, along with automated tools from Quest, can facilitate a rapid, seamless migration by enabling a pre-built IT infrastructure, which provides a tested implementation plan through to the pilot stage.

4. Implementation:

Once the pilot deployment has been completed and validated, Dell consultants help ensure that Windows Server 2008 is implemented according to the specified design. Dell experts also perform knowledge transfer to the organization's technical resources and system administrators. Typical tasks during implementation may include hardware and software installation, migration of users or data, and further testing to help ensure that functionality is available to client systems throughout the enterprise.

Visit DELL.COM/WindowsServer2008 for more information. 