7 WORDS ON
WINDOWS 7

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With the advent of the Microsoft® Windows® 7 OS, IT organizations face myriad decision points. If you had elected to bypass the Windows Vista® OS entirely and remained on Windows XP Professional, the key questions are likely around when and how to initiate a migration. For organizations with a mix of Windows Vista and Windows XP, is it time to consolidate to Windows 7? Is this an occasion to accelerate your client refresh cycle, including Windows 7 images on the new systems? Should you examine the latest approaches to desktop virtualization for an increasingly mobile workforce? And how do you most efficiently deploy, manage, and support Windows 7?

Beginning with this issue, we plan to bring you straightforward guidance on many of these questions—starting with these seven words on Windows 7:

1. **Plan:** Our special section on the Windows 7 and Windows Server® 2008 R2 operating systems begins on page 8. The lead story, "5 Steps for a Successful Windows 7 Enterprise Deployment," offers guidance on how to approach your migration.
2. **Integrate:** On page 11, "Top 10 Enterprise Features in Windows 7" describes new capabilities in the OS designed to meet the evolving needs of IT users and IT professionals alike.
3. **DirectAccess:** On page 16, learn about an alternative to traditional VPNs for Windows 7 clients in "Seamless Connectivity: Introducing Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 DirectAccess."
4. **BranchCache:** On page 22, "Enhancing WAN Performance with Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 BranchCache" articulates how networking enhancements can be delivered for Windows 7 users in branch office locations.
5. **Virtualize:** On page 25, approaches to desktop virtualization are discussed in "Virtual Desktop Infrastructure in Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2."

6 and 7. Special Edition: Beyond this issue, there is much more to come. Our editorial staff is working with best-in-class IT professionals, engineers, and ISVs to deliver the *Dell Power Solutions Windows 7 Migration Guide*—a separate 52-page Special Edition dedicated to Windows 7 migration coming in the first quarter of 2010. You will also be able to access a digital version of this guide at DELL.COM/PowerSolutions.

In addition, we are pleased to bring you our annual feature section on green IT (starting on page 30), headlined by "Efficient Enterprise: Making a Successful Transition to a Green IT Infrastructure"—a CIO-centric perspective on sustaining growth while contributing to a healthy bottom line. We hope this and the other four articles in the section help you achieve your green IT goals.