



**MICROSOFT PRODUCT NEWS,
APRIL ISSUE**

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Windows Vista SP1 Release – March 1, 2008

- **Geography** : Worldwide

Summary

Windows Vista SP1 media was released on the March 1, 2008 Volume License price list in English, German, Spanish, Japanese, French. All other language versions will be released approximately 8 to 12 weeks later.

There are no major Volume Licensing, license or pricing changes for Windows Vista SP1 versus Windows Vista Gold.

Details

Windows Vista SP1 released on the March 1, 2008 Volume License price list for Wave 0 languages (English, German, Spanish, Japanese, French) and will be released approximately 8 to 12 weeks later for all subsequent languages.

For downloadable media, Windows Vista SP1 was made available 12 days after release to manufacturing (February 18, 2008) on the Volume Licensing Service Center. Additionally, both SP1 media and slipstream builds of Windows Vista (which contain an integrated build of Windows Vista RTM + SP1 code) will be mailed to you as part of the April 2008 VL kit shipment, with additional languages shipping in the June 2008 VL kit shipment.

There are no major Volume Licensing, license or pricing changes for Windows Vista SP1 versus Windows Vista Gold.

As is already the case, the major value of Windows Vista Software Assurance (SA) is access to the Windows Vista Enterprise edition which includes Windows BitLocker Drive Encryption, four virtual operating systems, MUI (Multi-lingual User Interface), Subsystem for Unix-Based Apps, Diskless PCs and Remote Boot.

By purchasing Windows SA volume licensing you are able to purchase Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance which includes Microsoft Application Virtualization, Asset Inventory Service, Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset, Advanced Group Policy Management, and System Center Desktop Error Monitoring.

Pricing and Promotions

Limited-Time Promotional Offer on Virtual Machine Manager Workgroup Edition

- **Geography** : Worldwide

Summary

This **limited time** promotional offer on System Center Virtual Machine Manager 2007 Workgroup Edition provides you with additional savings on qualified System Center Virtual Machine Manager 2007 Workgroup Edition purchases made between April 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008. Midsized businesses that are looking into Virtualization options can adopt System Center Virtual Machine Manager 2007 Workgroup Edition with a discount up to 60% with Software Assurance while protecting their investment in preparation for the new version of Virtual Machine Manager that is scheduled to release in the summer. No other product purchase is required to take advantage of the discounted price for Virtual Machine Manager 2007 Workgroup Edition

While this promotional discount applies only to System Center Virtual Machine Manager Workgroup Edition, by offering it together with System Center Essentials 2007, you can acquire a comprehensive unified IT Management solution designed for midsized businesses that helps enable proactive and efficient management of IT resources, increase physical server utilization through virtualization, and helps IT staff simplify complex management tasks for increased operational efficiency.

Offer Details

- ❖ Up to 60% discount on Virtual Machine Manager Workgroup Edition
 - Up to 30% on L SKUS
 - Up to 60% on L&SA SKUS
- ❖ Purchase through Open Value, Select or Enterprise Agreements.
 - Offer available to Commercial, Government and Academic customers, worldwide
- ❖ Offer valid on purchases made from April 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008

Save Time and Money with Products You Know and Trust

Together, System Center Virtual Machine Manager 2007 Workgroup Edition and System Center Essentials 2007, provide a unified management experience, unparalleled for Windows® based environments that allows seamless management of both physical and virtual assets, enabling proactive management that helps mid-sized businesses IT staff increase their efficiency and maximize their resources.

Volume Activation Extends to Windows Server 2008

- **Geography** : Worldwide

Summary

Volume Activation 2.0 (VA 2.0), first implemented with Windows Vista Volume License (VL) editions, now applies to Windows Server 2008. VA 2.0 is designed to automate and manage the activation process while addressing the piracy and product key management problems associated with VLKs issued for Windows XP and Windows Server 2003. VA 2.0 is very similar for Windows Server 2008 and Windows Vista; however there are several changes for Windows Server 2008 that are important for you to know. Please see the document [Volume Activation 2.0 Changes for Windows Server 2008 and Windows Vista SP1](#) in the [Download Center](#) and online at www.microsoft.com/technet/volumeactivation.

Summary of Changes in VA 2.0 for Windows Server 2008

- ❖ Existing Windows Vista KMS Keys support activation of Windows Vista volume editions only
 - Windows Vista KMS will not activate Windows Server 2008
- ❖ MAK and KMS Keys are grouped by server edition (see table below for details)
 - To activate Windows Server 2008 using MAK, the corresponding group MAK key must be used
 - (After Server RTM) the KMS host on Windows Server 2008 can activate both Windows Vista and other Windows Server 2008 editions (based on the KMS key)
- ❖ KMS activation minimum policy requires 5 KMS clients for Windows Server 2008 activation; 25 KMS clients are still required for Windows Vista activation. (see below for details on policy changes)
- ❖ VAMT and KMS for Windows Server 2003 will require an update when Windows Server 2008 is released
 - Existing KMS host(s) will need to be activated with the new key(s)

Product Groupings

Volume Product Group	Windows Editions	MAK	Windows product editions activated by this MAK	KMS Key	Windows product editions activated by this KMS
Vista VL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Vista Business Windows Vista Enterprise 	MAK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Vista Business Windows Vista Enterprise 	KMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Vista Business Windows Vista Enterprise
Server Group A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Web Server 2008 	MAK_A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Web Server 2008 	KMS_A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Web Server 2008 Vista VL
Server Group B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Server 2008 Standard Windows Server 2008 Standard without Hyper-VTM Windows Server 2008 Enterprise Windows Server 2008 Enterprise without Hyper-VTM 	MAK_B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Server 2008 Standard Windows Server 2008 Standard without Hyper-VTM Windows Server 2008 Enterprise Windows Server 2008 Enterprise without Hyper-VTM 	KMS_B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Server 2008 Standard Windows Server 2008 Standard without Hyper-VTM Windows Server 2008 Enterprise Windows Server 2008 Enterprise without Hyper-VTM Server Group A Vista VL
Server Group C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Server 2008 Datacenter Windows Server 2008 Datacenter without Hyper-VTM Windows Server 2008 for Itanium-Based Systems 	MAK_C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Server 2008 Datacenter Windows Server 2008 Datacenter without Hyper-VTM Windows Server 2008 for Itanium-Based Systems 	KMS_C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Server 2008 Datacenter Windows Server 2008 Datacenter without Hyper-VTM Windows Server 2008 for Itanium-Based Systems Server Group B Server Group A Vista VL

To simplify volume activation across the variety of Windows Vista and Windows Server 2008 editions, Microsoft has introduced the concept of Volume Edition Product Groups. KMS and MAK keys apply to product groups rather than being edition-specific. This greatly simplifies key management by reducing the number of possible keys. The following table illustrates the Volume Product Groups, MAK and KMS keys, and the Windows volume editions that can be activated by each.

Changes to KMS Policy

The KMS key is used to establish a local activation service (the Key Management Service or KMS) that is hosted in your customer's environment. KMS activation requires a minimum number of physical machines before activation will occur. This is known as the KMS activation threshold. The KMS activation threshold policy for Windows Server 2008 is different than for Windows Vista.

- ❖ For a Windows Server 2008 client to activate: at least 5 physical KMS client machines. Can be Windows Server 2008 only or a combination of Windows 2008 server and Windows Vista computers.
- ❖ For a Windows Vista client to activate: at least 25 physical KMS client machines. Can be Windows Vista computers only or a combination of Windows Vista and Windows Server 2008 computers.
- ❖ Virtual client machines: do not contribute to the count, although they will be activated once the activation threshold is met.
- ❖ KMS host machines: A physical or virtual KMS host does not contribute to the count.

Windows Vista Enterprise Centralized Desktop Product Family Name Changes

- **Geography** : Worldwide

Summary

Windows Vista Enterprise Centralized Desktop product family names are being changed to make it easier to find on a price list and align more closely to how the product is typically referred. SKU numbers will remain the same and only the name will change. There is no change in license rights associated with this name change.

The new product family names will be changed on Feb 28th to:

- Windows VECD (used to be Win VisEnt Centrldsktp);
- Windows VECD for SA (used to be Win VisEnt Centrldsktp for SA)

Please note: product name changes to existing SKUs are retro-active and will flow to all downstream systems that display SKU/Descriptions regardless of the date range of the information. When a product name change is made, it will flow to downstream systems within 24 to 48 hours.

Software Assurance Customer Migration Path for Windows Server 2003 on Itanium Platform

- **Geography** : Worldwide

Summary

Customers with active Microsoft® Software Assurance coverage for Windows Server 2003 Datacenter Edition (Itanium Platform) and Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition (Itanium Platform) as of March 1, 2008 are eligible to receive Windows Server 2008 for Itanium Based Systems. The following provides guidance regarding the Software Assurance Migration path.

Details

Windows Server 2008 for Itanium Based Systems is now available to customers with active Software Assurance coverage for Windows Server 2003 Datacenter Edition (Itanium Platform) as of March 1, 2008.

SA Customers with Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition (Itanium Platform) are eligible to upgrade to four processor licenses of Windows Server 2008 for Itanium Based Systems for every Server license of Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition (Itanium Platform).

Please note that customers running Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition (Itanium Platform) on a licensed sever with more than four processors and who are in need of more licenses **as part of Software Assurance's new version rights benefit** must contact your Account Manager as appropriate.
