

Infrastructure optimisation

Microsoft® Windows Server 2008



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Server infrastructure is a critical element of any organisation's technology environment. Yet it's often relegated to the status of plumbing – something no one notices unless it stops working.

Your servers need to support your organisation's business objectives in a changing world. Constant availability is a prerequisite. Security is essential. Building technology to improve business performance requires deeper integration, new capabilities and greater flexibility.

To maintain a flexible workforce, you need 24 x 7 remote access to e-mail, critical business data and applications, while at the same time looking to server consolidation and virtualisation to increase the utilisation of expensive server resources.

The scale and complexity of server environments means you're spending ever more time and resources to stay in control. Maintaining these systems through multiple toolsets and manual processes is costly, time consuming and error prone.

Microsoft® Windows Server 2008: Part of a dynamic infrastructure

Microsoft® Windows Server 2008 is an essential element of Dimension Data's infrastructure optimisation suite of services. Drawing on the power of this operating system and its enhanced feature components, we're able to help organisations increase the reliability and flexibility of their critical infrastructure while also minimising the overheads required to administer and maintain critical IT services.

Windows Server 2008 includes a range of tools to make servers easier to deploy and manage, including:

- Pre-configured server roles that can be deployed using the Server Manager
- The powerful Windows PowerShell for automating management tasks
- The ability to create and deploy server and desktop images over the network using Windows Deployment Services

To ensure the protection of your vital corporate data and intellectual property, it offers a range of built-in security and high-availability features such as:

- Network access protection to quarantine client computers from the network until they meet policy-defined security criteria such as a recent antivirus signature
- Encryption and rights management technologies to protect data at rest and in transit
- Failover clustering features for improved availability
- A minimal installation option called Server Core, reducing the surface area for attacks
- The ability to deploy read-only domain controllers for branch offices

To boost productivity and flexibility, the new operating system also provides powerful new options for optimising applications including:

- Windows Server Virtualisation technology to increase resource utilisation and reliability
- Terminal services for application virtualisation and remote access
- The powerful IIS 7.0 platform for web-based applications and web services

To these advanced capabilities, Dimension Data adds a set of best practices developed through years of experience deploying and optimising Microsoft technology. Your server environments are managed in a complete lifecycle, from provisioning to securing, managing and maintaining systems.

Business value

By implementing Windows Server 2008 as part of a dynamic technology infrastructure, we can help you:

- **Control costs** by consolidating server roles and optimising utilisation
- **Simplify technology management** with centralised, automated tools
- **Improve security and compliance** through integrated protection and a system designed to minimise vulnerability
- **Reduce downtime** with enhanced availability and disaster recovery tools
- **Increase business agility** by rapidly deploying virtual, preconfigured servers
- **Make the most of existing investments** through integration with your current environment

“Through our relationship with Dimension Data, we can **deploy leading edge technologies** in a **safe** and **controlled way**. Dimension Data's **knowledge** and **understanding** have allowed us to **reduce administration costs** and **provide a secure environment**”

Michael Piko, Systems Manager, Latrobe University



Why Dimension Data?

Dimension Data is a specialist IT solution and service provider with domain expertise in networking, converged communications, security, data centre and storage, Microsoft and contact centre technologies and core capabilities in consulting, integration, and managed services.

Through a close partnership with Microsoft, Dimension Data has developed and maintained unrivalled competencies in Microsoft software – from the basic building blocks of the Windows operating system to the design of high-end management tools and services.

Infrastructure optimisation: The key to a dynamic future

Windows Server 2008 forms part of Dimension Data's suite of infrastructure optimisation services. These services help you understand the current state of your IT infrastructure including costs, security risks and agility. Drawing on the insights provided by this assessment, you can start working towards a more mature infrastructure model that features automated and policy-driven management; optimised and repeatable processes; and dynamic and proactive security.

Dimension Data's infrastructure optimisation services are based on Microsoft's infrastructure optimisation model, which it developed with technology analysts based on industry best practices and its work with enterprise customers.

The infrastructure optimisation model identifies four levels of maturity:

- **Basic:** IT as a cost centre, managed and coordinated manually, expensive and time consuming
- **Standardised:** IT as a more efficient cost centre, managed with limited automation
- **Rationalised:** IT as a business enabler, managed and consolidated with maximum automation
- **Dynamic:** IT as a strategic asset, fully automated management, dynamic resource usage, service level agreements linked to business objectives

Dimension Data's infrastructure optimisation services allow you to assess your organisation's maturity in vital infrastructure workloads. Our consultants will work with you to develop a roadmap towards becoming a more dynamic, cost effective and strategically valuable IT organisation.

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