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Exploring Windows XP Professional

Windows XP Professional takes the product to the next level:

- IntelliMirror Technologies

- Group Policy Functionality

- Encrypting File System Support

- Multiprocessor Support

Answers to Your Frequently Asked Questions

Q: FAT or NTFS? Which file system should you choose during the installation of Windows XP Professional?

A: In order to take advantage of all of the features of Windows XP, such as Encrypting File System, you need to choose NTFS.

Accessing the Desktop Settings

You can access the desktop settings several ways:

- Using the Control Panel

- Right-Clicking and Selecting from the Pop-Up Menu

- Via a Command Line

NOTE

A *profile* is a set of configurations that you can create, or the machine creates by default (usually ending with a .DAT extension) that defines your environment when logging on. The environment can contain (among other things) window size and position settings, program items, icons, and screen colors.

Transferring Files and Settings between Computers

The Files and Settings Transfer Wizard allows you to migrate files and settings from any Windows system to a Windows XP system. The advantage of this System tool is not so much in the transfer of files, which can also be achieved by the Backup Utility, but the fact that (nearly) all personal settings can be reinstated on the Windows XP system, which saves a lot of time and annoyance.

Using the QoS Packet Scheduler

The QoS Packet Scheduler is installed by default. QoS has been enhanced in Windows XP to automatically optimize TCP/IP for transmission across different interfaces that operate at different rates. This is typically the situation if you have turned on Internet Connection Sharing.
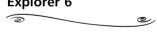
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Configuring Internet Explorer 6

You can easily customize Internet Explorer 6 to suit business requirements and individual tastes. Microsoft has built-in features that embrace Web standards, guard the user's privacy, protect the user from malicious sites, and make browsing the Web more convenient and efficient.

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Connecting to Other Windows XP Machines

You do not have to be running Windows XP to set up a connection to a Windows XP client. These other versions of Windows are supported:

- Windows 95

- Windows 98

- Windows Me

- Windows NT 4.0

- Windows 2000

Answers to Your Frequently Asked Questions

Q: My machine is ACPI-compliant. When I look at Power Management Options, I do not see an APM tab. Is this OK? How do I configure Advance Power Management?

A: On ACPI-compliant machines, APM is not installed because it is not required. ACPI improves upon APM as a power management standard, and it provides greater control over devices that are subject to power saving measures. You can configure power management by using the remaining tabs. The actual power management that goes on behind the scenes is executed using the ACPI standard, not the APM standard.

Utilizing Network Security

Several tools are included with Windows XP to secure network access:

- The Internet Connection Firewall

- TCP/IP Filtering

- Smart cards

- EAP

- 802.1*x*

**Planning for
IntelliMirror**

It is important to have
Active Directory installed
and configured properly
prior to using IntelliMirror
for software deployment
and configuration
management. Be sure to
test Active Directory
completely before relying
on the IntelliMirror
functions.

Troubleshooting Hardware

Troubleshooting hardware issues generally requires good, basic troubleshooting methodology. Before you begin, remember the following caveats:

- Troubleshooting requires reproducible events; it is rarely effective in cases of intermittent failure.

- Troubleshooting tools in Windows XP are designed to operate with hardware that is in the Hardware Compatibility List.

- Follow your complete troubleshooting path; repair of symptoms may not repair the cause.

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Using the Recovery Console

Windows XP includes the Recovery Console, which was introduced in Windows 2000. The Recovery Console is a text-based command interpreter, which is different from the normal Windows XP cmd.exe command interpreter in that it has a different set of commands and it allows you to access a Windows XP system that is not booting normally or is otherwise inaccessible.