

THE HAWK IVIEW



Hawk iSolutions Group, Inc.

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Information Technology for Small Business

Microsoft has announced that its new Small Business Server offering will be available in the second half of 2008. Replacing Small Business Server 2003, Small Business Server 2008 is an all-in-one server solution designed to help you keep your data more secure and your company more productive. It provides many of the features used by larger companies, such as e-mail, internet connectivity, internal Web sites, remote access, support for mobile devices, file and printer sharing, backup, and restore—all at one affordable price, and it is easy to use. SBS 2008 has a robust set of features that place small business on the same competitive footing that large companies utilize, but at a fraction of the cost. Because of this impact, the Hawk iView will devote several articles in upcoming issues to explaining the new features and how your business can benefit. Contrary to how many IT articles are written, this approach will be oriented to how your business will be improved, not in how fast bits twirl around the internet. So let's start with some basic understanding so you can see why any company with two computers or more can benefit from the improvements SBS 2008 can bring to you.

First, this is an integrated and comprehensive solution. Windows Small Business Server 2008 is designed to work with existing technology, built on Microsoft best practices, and delivers a comprehensive network at an affordable

price. Individually, SBS 2008 is comprised of Windows Server 2008 Standard Edition, Exchange Server 2007 Standard Edition, Windows SharePoint Services 3.0, Windows Server Update Services 3.0, Forefront Security for Exchange Server Small Business Edition, Windows Live OneCare, Integration with Microsoft Office Live Services Small Business, and (for SBS 2008 Premium Edition) SQL Server 2008. Not only is the product integrated for easy installation and operation, but the price is attractive for small businesses (up to 75 computers) compared to the pricing for all of the products individually. More significantly, SBS 2008 allows you to gain control over business information and the technology to access the information.

Second, your vital business data is protected through automated backup and anti-malware protection.

The third business reason to use SBS 2008 is the ability to grow your business capacity. One of the really nice features of SBS 2003 and continues in SBS 2008 is the ability to access your business desktop at anytime from anywhere, including e-mail, files, business financial applications, client service information, and more.

One of the most compelling reasons to utilize any server product is the ability to share resources and equipment. Not only is the network and internet access shared, but printers and faxes can also be shared. In addition, applications and data can not only be shared,

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Vow Of Silence?

Once upon a time there was a man who grew weary of his life and his job and the world in general. He needed a fresh start so he joined a monastery, where he chose to take a vow of silence. Every 10 years though, he would be allowed to speak only two words.

The first 10 long and silent years passed for the man. Then the elders at the monastery brought him into their council room and asked him for his two words.

"Cold room," said the man. The elders nodded and dismissed the man. Ten more long years passed and again the elders summoned the man to speak his two words. This time he said, "terrible food." Again the elders nodded and dismissed the man.

Another long 10 years passed and the man stood once again in front of the elders in the council room. His two words?

"I quit!"

"The elders looked at each other for a moment and then the head elder replied, "That doesn't surprise us one bit. All you've done for the last 30 years is complain!"



DO YOU ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR IDENTITY THIEVES?

Just about every web site you visit these days wants you to register and choose a password, especially when making a purchase. However, if you do this carelessly, you may be setting yourself up as an easy prey for online criminals. Although we know we should choose unique and hard to decipher passwords that contain both numbers and letters, most people still use easy to remember passwords and words for their convenience.

Below are the top 10 passwords used online according to PC Magazine. If you are using any of the following, you're putting a big red bulls eye on your account for identity theft:

1. password
2. 123456
3. qwerty
4. abc123
5. letmein
6. monkey
7. myspace1
8. password1
9. link182
10. [yourfirstname]



One easy way to keep track of these passwords is to simply keep a written log of each password you create. The problem with this approach is that you lose your "paper trail" (locked out of the sites), it is "found" by someone (there goes the protection you were seeking), or you are trying to get online and your paper is "offline". There are also software packages and services that will keep track of your passwords for you. These have a cost (even if they are freeware), or you can lose control of your own information. Here is what I suggest: create a spreadsheet or document of your sites, user ID's accounts numbers, contact information, email ID you provided, and, of course, the password. Keep this file on-line, in a protected manner. Make sure you have a backup. And when you are away from the office, arrange to have access using a secure connection. And if you have any questions about any of this, just call us.

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We do care!



Hawk iSolutions Group, Inc.

Rebate Alert: Don't Get Ripped Off

The offers are irresistible but misleading; retailers advertise after-rebate prices on hardware and software to grab your attention and get you to buy. But are you really getting the bargain you expected?

They're Counting On You To Forget . . .

According to the NPD Group, a global market research firm, almost one-third of all computer products and twenty percent of all consumer electronics are sold with a rebate. Manufacturers use rebates as an easy way to offer discounts without actually having to take the full financial hit; that's because thirty to fifty percent of the buyers never attempt to redeem them and therefore end up paying full price for the merchandise.

Get Ready To Jump Through Multiple Hoops

To further tip the scales in their favor of not having to pay out, some manufacturers and retailers are imposing impossible restrictions, complicating the process to request a rebate, delaying payments, and creating other barriers that make it difficult to get your money. All of these are delay tactics to get you to give up on the idea of getting your rebate out of frustration.

New Laws Protect You

With consumer complaints to the FTC and Better Business Bureau piling up, regulators have tightened the rules around advertising rebates.

Last year, the Federal Trade Commission settled its first dispute with a Dallas-based CompUSA store for knowingly advertising rebates from computer peripherals manufacturer Qps Inc., even though they knew this manufacturer wasn't fulfilling on the rebates advertised.

After this settlement, CompUSA was not only required to advertise the time frame for securing the rebates advertised, but also had to take financial responsibility for any rebates not paid during the promised time frame.

Even though the government is on your side, getting stuck in the middle of a rebate war is very frustrating and a huge waste of time. If you are going to try to cash in on a rebate, here are some tips that will help.

5 Tips To Collecting Your Promised Rebate

1. Follow the rebate instructions carefully. Many manufacturers will reject a rebate over a tiny technicality. That means reading the small print and following the instructions to the letter.
2. Make a copy of all the paperwork, receipts, and documents before mailing them off. Some manufacturers may request the original receipt; if you mail in your only copy, you could be out of luck if it gets "lost" in the mail. Which

brings me to tip #3...

3. Mail your rebate via certified mail to have proof of delivery.
4. Schedule a reminder to yourself to call the company if your rebate doesn't show up within the time frame promised. Most companies will have a web site or toll-free number to call to track your rebate.
5. If the manufacturer rejects your rebate or is holding your check, let them know you plan on contacting the FTC or the BBB. Ask the people you speak to for their names and ask to speak to their supervisor.

As a final word of advice, only purchase things you can afford without the rebate.

**TIP:
Rebates Often
Take Months
To Process So
Be Prepared
For The Wait!**





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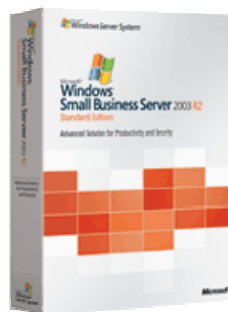
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but can be protected from unauthorized access. SBS 2008 allows all of this sharing in one inexpensive, easy-to-operate package.

That was a brief run-down of the business aspects of Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2008. During the upcoming issues of the Hawk iView, we will discuss in more detail the various aspects of SBS 2008. Our topic for next month will be one of the most exciting (and best kept secrets) of SBS 2003: Remote Web Workplace. I will discuss how this feature can be used in SBS 2008 to provide you access to your desktop from any location, whether you are a road-warrior, working from a home office, or simply need quick access to company files. This has been one of most appreciated capabilities of SBS 2003 and will continue to be a productivity-enhancing feature in SBS 2008.

If you are still reading this article, you have an interest in what the Small Business Server 2008 can do for you. To encourage you to take the next step, we would love to set up a meeting to discuss how Microsoft Small Business Server 2008 can enhance your business. If you agree to and meet with HiSG, we will bring a USB Mass Storage Drive (i.e., thumb drive), yours free, no obligations!

We look forward to hearing from you!
Call: John Antone at (314) 727-1174



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I'd Love To Hear From YOU!

Is there an article or a feature you would like me to include in this newsletter? Do you just want to sound off about something or share your opinion with my other subscribers?

Let me know!

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