

## Windows 2000: Upgrade or Wait?

First, a word about where everything fits in: Windows 2000 Professional is the upgrade for Windows NT Workstation. Windows 2000 will also be available in 3 server flavours: Server, Advanced Server, and Datacenter Server. Windows 2000 Server is designated as the "Workgroup and Small Business Server". This is not to be confused with Windows NT Small Business Server, which is still issued on the NT Server 4.0 operating system. A Windows 2000 version of Small Business Server will be forthcoming.

### Reasons to Upgrade to Windows 2000 ...

1. **Increased stability:** The NT platform has always been the most stable Windows operating system. Microsoft is promoting Windows 2000 as being even more stable and reliable.
2. **Fewer Reboots:** Compared with Windows NT, there are fewer occasions where reboots are required on Windows 2000. In fact, the reboot scenarios have been reduced from 75 to 5 "known cases".
3. **Built-in features:** Windows 2000 includes features which were extras or third-party products on Windows NT, for example Terminal Services, disk defragmenter, and resource kit utilities.
4. **Improved Recovery:** Windows 2000 includes new features for troubleshooting crashes, such as a "Safe mode" bootup and Recovery Console
5. **No choice:** At some point, Microsoft will stop selling, supporting, or even issuing service packs for Windows NT.

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## What's the Difference? NAT vs Proxy

One of the problems with connecting existing IP networks to the Internet is that each PC on the network must have a globally unique IP address in order to be identified by the rest of the Internet. If the IP address is not unique, Internet routers will not be able to reach that PC. Therefore, you would have to obtain, at a cost, an appropriate range of unique IP addresses for your network.

There are several ways around this. One is to connect to the Internet using a router that implements Network Address Translation (NAT). NAT allows the mapping of internal IP addresses to one or more global IP addresses owned by your organization. Advantages of NAT include:

- Enhanced level of security because the organization's internal network structure is hidden from the Internet
- Freedom to use any internal IP addressing scheme
- No need to change IP addressing of each PC
- Reduces the number of global IP addresses that a company needs.

Another solution is to use a Proxy server, such as Microsoft Proxy Server 2.0 or Novell Border Manager 3.5. These are installed on a server with two network adapters, one which is part of your internal network, and one which has an external, or public, IP address. The Proxy server application controls the traffic between the two networks – your internal network and the Internet. Proxy server advantages include those mentioned above, plus:

- **Caching** – speeds performance of user's web browsing by storing previously accessed web pages.
- **Secures your web browsing** – by allowing access only to authorized users who log on to the Proxy server
- **Logging** – allows tracking of sites browsed and users identity.

The correct Internet solution for your organization depends on several factors – including your business needs, future growth, and budget. Call Nautalex for a consultation on the right solution for you.

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# Windows 2000

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## Reasons to Wait ...

1. **No big problems:** Windows NT 4.0 with Service Pack 3 or later works very well, thank you.
2. **Application compatibility:** If you run a third-party client-server application, don't even consider upgrading until the software is certified for Windows 2000.
3. **Drivers:** Availability of drivers for your legacy adapters and peripherals may be limited.
4. **Don't be the first on your block:** Enough said.

## Storm Warning

The warmer weather may bring with it electrical storms or brown-outs. We remind you to make sure that you have the following protection in place:

Equipment	Protection
Servers & Critical Workstations	UPS Line Conditioning Surge Suppression
Workstations	Surge Suppression Line Conditioning
Printers, Scanners, Fax Machines, Phone Systems etc.	Surge Suppression
Modem lines	Surge Suppression

## Computers for Charity

Do you have some **working** 486/66+ or low-end Pentium machines which are just "too good to throw out"? We can put you in touch with a charitable organization that can make good use of these older PCs. If you are interested, please contact Shauna Leigh Richter at Nautalex (519-622-8840). ☒

## Quizmaster's Corner

A math puzzle: Arrange the 9 digits (1-9) in a 3-by-3 square so that they add up the same vertically, horizontally and through both diagonals, in each case working through the middle digit.

The correct responses will be entered into a draw to win a prize, so give it a try. E-mail or fax your response to: [quizmaster@nautalex.com](mailto:quizmaster@nautalex.com)

## Are You an Optimist?

*You may not think you're an extreme optimist, but do any of the following apply to you (or to any of your employees)?*

- q You keep valuable data files only on your PC or notebook, never backing them up to a server, another PC, or backup device, AND:
- q You believe the hard drive on your desktop or notebook PC will never, ever fail.
- q You don't know anyone whose hard drive has ever failed.
- q You believe your notebook PC is somehow immune to theft or damage.
- q You believe that nothing destructive – from human or natural sources – will ever happen to your PC.
- q You believe your anti-virus protection (if you have any) is infallible.
- q You have never experienced an "ohnosecond" (the infinitesimal period of time where you say OH NO, I didn't mean to delete that!) when the bottom falls out of your day?

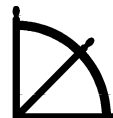
We are here to tell you that

- hard drives DO fail
- notebooks DO get stolen or damaged
- and accidents of all sorts DO happen.

We could fill a book with disaster stories.

If you realize that statistics are not on your side, then please take steps to implement a backup solution for your workstations. Ideally, you are keeping data files on a file server that has a tape backup. In cases where data files are kept on workstations, please consider a zip drive, a CD burner, a tape drive, or an automated script which copies files from your PC to a file server. Nautalex can help you with these solutions, and more. ☒

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Nautalex designs and implements fully-integrated computer network systems for businesses. Providing consulting, software, hardware and peripherals, we offer complete, cost-effective network solutions. ☒

