

LANsultants Times

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MICROSOFT SOFTWARE LICENSING CHANGES

On July 31, 2002, major changes take affect in Microsoft's software licensing agreements. As of August 1st software upgrades are being discontinued including competitive upgrades, version upgrades and product upgrades. As of August 1st if you have not subscribed to a Software Assurance or Upgrade Advantage program and desire to upgrade, it will be as *if you never owned any version of their products.*

Accordingly, if you are considering upgrading to the current version of Microsoft Office Suite, Windows XP Professional, Windows 2000 Server or any other Microsoft products in the next 2 years LANsultants recommends procuring either the Microsoft's Software Assurance or Upgrade Advantage by July 31st.

Software Assurance is for current versions of software such as Office 2000, Office XP, 2000 Server, Windows 2000 Professional and Windows XP Professional. Upgrade Advantage is for discontinued programs such as Office97, Project 97, Windows NT 4.0 Workstation and NT 4.0 Server.

Office Software Assurance and/or Upgrade Advantage licenses are \$215/user. This is about a 50% savings over the cost of the full version of MS-Office XP. Similar cost savings can also be realized with the server programs. However, as server pricing is determined by both the number of servers and number of workstations, quotes have to be provided on an as needed basis. If appropriate, you will receive a letter from LANsultants with your server license upgrade costs.

It seems Microsoft is attempting to force the market to a software subscription model.

VIRUS WARNING

The risk of viruses to our client's computer systems increases daily. Though no software and/or policy can completely protect your system from damage, upgrading your software and implementing sound e-mail policies can minimize the risk.

If your virus protection software is not current, upgrade now. *Some clients have not responded to notices that their software is incapable of checking for new viruses.* Most anti-virus software includes either a 1 or 2 year license to download new virus definitions. Once this period has expired your computers are susceptible to new viruses.

In your e-mail, disable any preview window. This is View>QuickViewer in GroupWise, Previewer in MS-Outlook, >> button in PhoneSlips and the Preview toolbar in Pegasus Mail.

Instruct staff not to open any unsolicited e-mail, especially if it has an attachment. Many viruses display specific messages in the body of the e-mail or subject field. Keep your staff informed of known red flag e-mails and have your staff delete suspect messages without opening. Do not execute software that is downloaded from the Internet unless it has been scanned for viruses.

If you use MS-Word, Internet Explorer, Outlook or Exchange, be doubly careful as these products have known security vulnerabilities hackers can exploit.

LANsultants is closed for Memorial Day, Monday May 27th.

If you would like to be removed from our fax newsletter please fax request to 215-875-7346.