

Windows MultiPoint Server 2010 Application Compatibility FAQ

Partners

Overview

Windows® MultiPoint™ Server 2010 is a new Windows product targeted at educational institutions for use in classrooms, labs, and libraries that allows multiple users to simultaneously share one computer. This document provides information about MultiPoint Server application compatibility and associated resources.

While most Windows applications run “as is” on MultiPoint Server 2010, some may require modification to perform as expected. The key requirements to be aware of include:

- Support for 32-bit or 64-bit versions of Windows (older 16-bit applications are incompatible)
- Support for multi-user environments, e.g., multiple instances and simultaneous access

Overall, MultiPoint Server has the same application requirements as Remote Desktop Services on Windows Server® 2008 R2 as both are multi-user environments and applications may be accessed concurrently by many users.

FAQs

Q: If an application is Windows® 7 compatible, is it likely to run on Windows MultiPoint Server 2010?

A: Yes, it’s likely, unless the ISV explicitly checks for and prevents running on server operating system versions. In some cases, ISVs have different versions of their applications for server operating systems.

Q: If an application is compatible with Windows XP, is it likely to run on Windows MultiPoint Server 2010?

A: Yes, it’s likely, as long as it is a 32-bit application and the ISV doesn’t explicitly exclude server operating system versions. 16-bit applications are not compatible with MultiPoint Server. In some cases, ISVs have different versions of their applications for server operating systems.

Q: What applications do we know are compatible?

A: Microsoft cannot represent compatibility of third-party applications on behalf of independent software vendors, and at this time, no public listing of compatible ISV applications exists for MultiPoint Server.

Q. Is Windows MultiPoint Server 2010 compatible with all third-party applications even though it is based on Windows Server 2008 R2, a 64-bit machine?

A. Most programs designed for 32-bit versions of Windows will work on MultiPoint Server because it is built on Windows Server 2008 R2, which makes use of WOW64 to allow 32-bit applications to run.

Notable exceptions are many third-party anti-virus programs. Fortunately, several anti-virus applications do run on MultiPoint Server, including the Forefront™ Client Security Suite.

Also, device drivers designed for 32-bit versions of Windows won't work so customers will need 64-bit versions.

The advantage, however, is increased performance from the growing support for 64-bit applications.

Q: Are there any incompatible applications I should know about?

A: You should know that some anti-virus applications are currently incompatible. Check for the latest information on applications we’ve tested internally [here](#). Fortunately, there are several compatible alternatives for customers including Microsoft Forefront™ Client Security Suite.

Q: How can customers and partners learn more about developing applications compatible with Windows MultiPoint Server 2010?

A: For an overview of the key development and compatibility considerations, please review the Windows MultiPoint Server 2010 Application Compatibility Guide.

For additional information, read the whitepaper on [Application Readiness for Terminal Services](#). To learn more about developing applications for Desktop Remote Services, review the [TS Programming Guidelines](#). For complete information on Remote Desktop Services, visit the [Terminal Services product page](#) and the [TS TechNet](#) Web sites. Information on developing applications for Windows Server® 2008 R2 is in the [Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 Application Quality Cookbook](#).

Q: How can I address my customers' application compatibility issues?

A: Be proactive in understanding the customer's top applications. You should probe specifically for anti-virus applications. Check to see if we've tested those top applications and if we have not, submit them for testing.

For More Help

Q: Who can I contact for more information?

A: Contact your region's Server Business Group representative.