

The Microsoft Branch Office Solution

We help organizations address the key challenges of containing costs while improving system responsiveness and security for branch offices. Our team of experts provides an in-depth assessment of your branch operations and business growth requirements to tailor and deliver a Microsoft® Branch Office Solution that optimizes your resources, increases system reliability and security, and reduces costs.

IT Challenges in the Branch Office

One in three businesses has a branch office. Although they're at the organizational periphery, branch offices are far from peripheral in significance; in fact, they are the primary point of customer contact, whether in retail, banking, healthcare, or numerous other industries.

Despite their critical importance in driving business success, branch offices struggle with a number of information management and technology challenges that can have a dramatic impact on their ability to effectively deliver value to customers.

Because branch offices typically have little or no IT expertise, critical functions such as the effective backup and restore of data, ensuring the security of mission-critical information, timely distribution of software updates and patches, and proactive equipment maintenance are all serious challenges. Although such services can be performed remotely by central IT—or by flying in IT help—for many organizations, resource management across the extended enterprise is complex, inefficient, and costly.

Many branch offices connect to critical information at the central site using wide area network (WAN) technology. This can be problematic since WAN connectivity can be unreliable, difficult to manage, and unacceptably slow.

Many organizations attempt to solve this problem by purchasing

more bandwidth. While additional bandwidth can indeed provide fast, reliable access to information, the drawbacks include high costs and solution complexity. Moreover, such an approach further decentralizes the organization's resources, making it more difficult for central IT to standardize and ensure reliable information sharing and security across the entire enterprise or to control costs.

Consolidating branch servers and relying solely on the central site for IT may be unacceptable for the branch office; poor WAN performance can impair productivity, while connectivity outages may jeopardize data.

Microsoft Branch Office Solution

Based on Microsoft Windows Server® 2003 R2, the Microsoft Branch Office Solution helps reduce administration overhead for maintaining branch office connectivity, prevent security issues at the branch office from impacting the main office, and solve problems with the productivity of branch office network employees.

Improve Efficiency and Help Reduce Costs.

We help you reduce costs and administrative overhead for maintaining branch office connectivity by taking time to learn your operations and business needs. Our experience and expertise help us pinpoint areas for optimization in accordance with

your unique business and technical requirements.

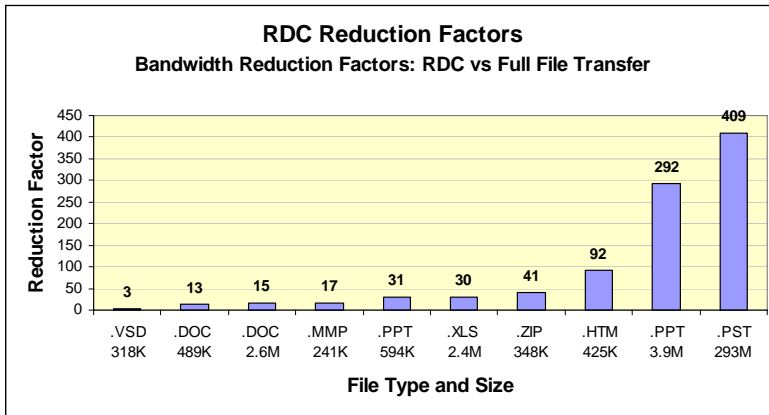
We leverage the Microsoft Branch Office Solution to improve the efficiency of your WAN usage, simplify branch server management, and help you implement robust file replication with the following well-integrated technologies.

Distributed File System

Replication (DFS-R). We utilize Distributed File System Replication, a feature of Microsoft Windows® Storage Server 2003 R2, to simplify branch office data management and protection. A robust file replication service, DFS-R allows branch clients to fail over to the nearest data replica should connection to the central site be lost. DFS-R is scalable and efficient in synchronizing file servers. Supporting automated recovery from database corruption or loss, DFS-R also supports file replication on demand, as well as scheduling and bandwidth throttling of replication schemes and multiple replication topologies.

Remote Differential

Compression (RDC). RDC helps ensure fast, efficient data transfer to and from branch offices. An advanced WAN-compatible compression technology, RDC optimizes data transfers over networks with limited bandwidth. Rather than repeatedly passing similar or redundant data back to the central site, RDC accurately identifies file changes and transmits only the differences, helping branch offices decrease bandwidth usage.



Remote Differential Compression in Windows Server 2003 R2

Microsoft Systems Management Server (SMS) 2003. SMS 2003 enables automated, centralized software and update distribution to Windows-based desktops, mobile computers, and servers in the branch office. SMS allows the administrator to define and control how and when programs run on managed client computers.

Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM) 2005. Facilitating the system tracking, maintenance, and troubleshooting necessary to effectively manage Windows-based servers and applications, MOM provides a centralized and cost-effective way to manage branch office resources.

Microsoft Virtual Server 2005 R2. Virtualization technology enables branch offices to run multiple operating systems concurrently on a single physical server, which helps to consolidate resources and reduce operating costs.

Help Increase Security and Reliability.

We implement tailored solutions that help prevent security issues at the branch office from impacting the main office. Our expertise and personalized attention, combined

with our in-depth knowledge of the Microsoft Branch Office Solution, provide you with the right fit for innovative branch office security technologies and reliability.

Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration (ISA) Server 2004 SP2. Designed for the branch office workload and Windows Server 2003 R2 interoperability, ISA Server helps branch offices receive and transmit data faster, more efficiently, and more securely. By caching and compressing Web content, ISA can provide improved WAN performance. Not only does this increase data transfer speeds, but it also helps control networking costs with the drop in bandwidth consumption.

In addition to improved WAN efficiencies, ISA Server provides enhanced, centralized security technologies to branches.

Microsoft System Center Data Protection Manager (DPM) 2006. Enabling branch offices to back up data to a local disk, DPM provides fast, efficient data protection.

Accelerate Information.

Getting the right information to the right people at the right time is

vital for the productivity of branch office employees. We have the expertise to help you effectively manage information transfer to remote sites. With our guidance and implementation expertise, you can enhance the experience for end users at your branch offices.

We leverage Microsoft Branch Office Solution to help you provide uninterrupted branch office service with high-performance WAN connectivity. Windows Server 2003 R2 simplifies and optimizes branch server management, enabling branch offices to maintain the performance, availability, and productivity benefits of local branch office servers and avoid the issues typically associated with branch office server solutions, such as connectivity limitations and management challenges.

Windows Server 2003 R2 provides the framework upon which higher-level services, critical to effective branch office management, are built, including directory services, network addressing and name resolution services, file and print services, and core client and management services.

To learn more:

As a recognized Microsoft partner, we are here to help you improve today—and tomorrow—as you continue to grow strong branches and expand operations. To learn more, please visit www.microsoft.com/windowsserver2003/R2/branchoffice/default.mspx