

1 CONFIGURATION AND MAINTENANCE

Control Panel

Device Manager

Windows Mobility Center

Windows Security Center

ADMINISTRATIVE TOOLS

Microsoft Management Console Provides system administrators and advanced users with a flexible interface through which they may configure and monitor the system.

Event Viewer Lets administrators and users view the event logs on a local or remote machine.

Reliability and Performance Monitor Lets administrators view current system reliability and performance trends over time.

Logical Disk Manager A logical volume manager developed by Microsoft in conjunction with Veritas Software.

Regedit Edits the Windows registry.

Task Scheduler Allows users to script tasks for running during scheduled intervals

SOFTWARE INSTALLATION AND DEPLOYMENT

Windows Update An online service which provides critical updates, service packs, device drivers, and other updates. A variation called Microsoft Update also provides software updates for several Microsoft products.

Windows Installer A packaging format and engine for the installation, maintenance, and removal of software. Includes a GUI framework, automatic generation of the uninstallation sequence and deployment capabilities for corporate networks.

ClickOnce Technology for deploying .NET Framework-based software via web pages, with automatic update capabilities. Intended for per-user only applications.

2 USER INTERFACE

Windows Shell The most visible and recognizable aspect of Microsoft Windows. The shell is the container inside of which the entire graphical user interface is presented, including the taskbar, the desktop, Windows Explorer, as well as many of the dialog boxes and interface controls.

Windows Explorer Provides an interface for accessing the file systems, launching applications, and performing common tasks such as viewing and printing pictures.

Special Folders Folders which are presented to the user through an interface as an abstract concept, instead of an absolute path. This makes it possible for an application to locate where certain kinds of files can be found, regardless of what version or language of operating system is being used. See also, Windows Shell namespace.

Start menu Serves as the central launching point for applications. It provides a customizable, nested list of programs for the user to launch, as well as a list of most recently opened documents, a way to find files and get help, and access to the system settings.

By default, the Start Button is visible at all times in the lower left-hand corner of the screen.

Classic style:

Taskbar The application desktop bar which is used to launch and monitor applications.

File associations Used to open a file with the correct program. File associations can be uniquely assigned to specific actions, known as verbs.

3 APPLICATIONS

Windows Calendar Calendaring and task tracking application.

Windows Contacts Keeps a single list of contacts that can be shared by multiple programs.

Calculator A calculation application.

Object Packager A program used to create and insert packages into documents.

Paint A simple graphics painting program.

Notepad A simple text editor.

Narrator A screen reader utility that reads dialog boxes and window controls in a number of the more basic applications for Windows.

Sound Recorder A simple audio recording program that can record from a microphone or headset, and save the results in WAVE format.

COMMAND.COM and Cmd.exe A text-based shell (command line interpreter) that provides a command line interface to the operating system.

WordPad A simple word processor that is more advanced than Notepad. It has facilities to format and print text, but lacks intermediate features such as a spell checker and thesaurus.

Remote Desktop Connection A client implementation of the Remote Desktop Protocol; allows a user to securely connect to a computer running Terminal Services (Remote Desktop on Windows XP and Server 2003) and interact with a full desktop environment on that machine, including support for remoting of printers, audio, and drives.

Internet Explorer A graphical web browser and FTP client.

Windows Mail An e-mail and news client.

Windows Media Player A digital media player and media library application that is used for playing audio, playing video and viewing images. In addition to being a media player, Windows Media Player includes the ability to rip music from, and copy music to compact discs, synchronize content with a digital audio player (MP3 player) or other mobile devices, and let users purchase or rent music from a number of online music stores.

Windows Photo Gallery A photo management application. Lets users organize their digital photo collection in its Gallery view, by adding titles, rating, captions, and custom metadata tags to photos. Photos can be edited for exposure, color correction, resizing, cropping, red-eye reduction, etc. and also allows printing photos via the Photo Printing Wizard.

Windows Movie Maker A video editing software that is intended for use in editing home movies. Source footage can be split into clips, and the final movie created by combining multiple clips along with effects such as transitions, titles/credits, separate audio track, timeline narration etc.

Windows Media Center Designed to serve as a home-entertainment hub, to be viewed from a distance up to 3 meters (~10 feet) and controlled by specially designed remote controls. Lets users browse and view pictures, videos, and music from local hard drives, optical drives, and network locations, along with viewing, recording and deferred-playing live TV. Features an interactive TV guide with scheduled recording capabilities. Can also be used for visualization of other information (like sports scores) within the interface.

Windows Meeting Space A peer-to-peer collaboration program which lets multiple users start collaboration sessions. Supports desktop sharing, distribution and collaborative editing of documents, and passing notes to other participants.

Windows Task Manager Provides information about computer performance and displays details about running applications, processes, network activity, logged-in users, and system services.

Disk Cleanup A utility for compacting rarely used files and removing files that are no longer required.

Shadow Copy A graphical front end for the Shadow Copy service that lets users choose from multiple versions of a file. The shadow copy service creates multiple copies of a file as they are changed over time, so that users can revert to previous versions.