

Client Advisory - Discontinued support for NT Server 4.0

May 17, 2004

Microsoft is discontinuing support for Windows NT Server 4.0.

Microsoft does not issue security patches for products the company no longer supports.

The Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0 family of operating systems began entering the marketplace in September 1996. After five years on the market—and with the increasing adoption of its successor, the Windows 2000 Server family of operating systems—Windows NT Server 4.0 is being retired in phases. This Client Advisory describes the remaining time table for the termination of support and the recommendations that should be considered in order to upgrade this operating system.

Remaining Time Table

January 1, 2004 - Beginning on this date, non-security hotfixes are no longer available.

January 1, 2005 - Beginning on this date, Pay-per-incident and Premier support will no longer be available. This includes security hotfixes.

Recommendations

Serious consideration should be given now to investigate the migration processes from the current Windows NT 4 server environment to a more current and widely supported operating system.

As NT 4 may currently be the principal operating system for both primary and Exchange servers, your company will have to seriously consider any compatibility issues when migrating primary applications to newer operating systems.

Companies should consider migrating to a current operating system such as Windows 2000 or 2003 server. Prior to migration we recommend that companies investigate and confirm any compatibility issues with current applications, particularly those applications critical to business operations.

Without proper research and testing companies cannot be certain of a smooth migration to a newer operating system when required.

Global Data Vaulting can assist your company in conducting an IT needs assessment, evaluating current server software and identifying potential conflicts and compatibility problems with current applications.