IBM Datacenter Solution Program
Application Certification and Compatibility Status
March 2001

Before you upgrade to Windows® 2000 Datacenter Server, use the information below to assess the readiness of your solution and to make sure your hardware and software has been tested to run on Windows 2000 Datacenter Server. Read the "How to determine if your application is ready for Windows 2000 Datacenter Server?" section for a list of criteria to access your application's readiness for Windows 2000 Datacenter server mission critical environments. It is important to remember that Windows 2000 Datacenter Server is a member of the Windows 2000 product family. As such, an application written to the Windows 2000 APIs works on Windows 2000 Datacenter Server just as it works on any other member of the family.

Windows 2000 Datacenter Testing Terms and Definition:

Windows Datacenter Program 14 Day Test: For server platforms to be placed on the Microsoft Hardware Compatibility List (HCL), the following Windows Datacenter components must be tested over an extended period of 14 days.

- All hardware components
- All hardware drivers
- All software that works at the kernel level, including virus software, disk and tape management, backup software, and similar types of software

Microsoft requires participating vendors to set up these hardware and software components running Windows 2000 Datacenter Server and successfully run the Windows Datacenter Program tests. Vendors must successfully pass a 14-day test period during which servers running Windows 2000 Datacenter Server must meet or exceed 99.9 percent scheduled availability.

Windows 2000 Datacenter Application Logo Certification - Highest level ranking for Windows 2000 Datacenter applications. This program was put in place with the specific objective of driving the creation of applications that have been designed, tested and optimized to run on Datacenter. It is a functional test process conducted by an independent third-party, which certifies that an application will run well on the Datacenter platform. It includes testing on a 32-way platform and a 4-node cluster platform. When an application meets the standards in the Windows 2000 Datacenter Application Specification, this means that it is optimized for Windows 2000 Datacenter and it has passed certification tests conducted by an independent third party, VeriTest. http://www.veritest.com/mslogos/windows2000/Win2k_datacenter.asp

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IBM Datacenter Application Compatibility – Applications tested for Windows 2000 Datacenter compatibility on an IBM Datacenter configuration. The application provider or ISV is required to complete the Windows 2000 Datacenter test requirements outlined in Chapter 7 of the Microsoft Application Specification and high availability applications are also required to complete the testing outlined in Chapter 6 of the same document. ISVs should be prepared to provide Windows 2000 Datacenter documentation and contact information for the 24 x 7 support center, and agree to maintain the level of support documented and required for Windows 2000 Datacenter problem resolutions. IBM Datacenter testing is available at the Microsoft Compatibility Lab located on the Microsoft campus and also, beginning May 2001, at the Solution Partnership Center in Hursley, UK.

How do you know if your application is ready for Datacenter?

Applications that run in a Microsoft Windows 2000 Datacenter environment are often mission critical and require high levels of availability, scalability and reliability. These environments are optimized for large data warehouses, econometric analysis, large-scale simulations in science and engineering, online transaction processing (OLTP), and server consolidation. Windows 2000 Datacenter Server is designed for enterprises that need very reliable high-end servers, options and software. In order to get the most optimized applications for your mission critical environment, applications should be able to meet the following requirements:

- Applications should run in high Physical Address Extension (PAE) memory.
- Applications should operate correctly while under control of Job Objects.
- Applications should scale up on large SMP systems.
- Applications should demonstrate stability under stress.
- The application vendor should provide debug symbols or the equivalent.
- The application vendor should document and commit to providing Datacenter Server-caliber 24 x 7 support.

Kernel mode drivers must pass verification testing

Poorly written kernel mode drivers have the potential to crash the system. Therefore, it is critical that any application that includes kernel mode drivers, such as anti-virus products, and/or disk and tape management, etc. be thoroughly tested to minimize this risk. If your application includes any kernel mode drivers, each of these drivers must pass the ***Windows Datacenter Program 14 Day Test***. This is a rigorous 14-day Microsoft hardware compatibility test administered at the IBM Center for Microsoft Technologies facility in Kirkland, Washington. See http://www.microsoft.com/hwdev/driver/driververify.htm for more information on using the Driver Verifier Manager and diagnosing driver problems.

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Microsoft Application Specification Design Guide for Windows 2000

The Application Specification for Windows 2000 defines the technical requirements for applications to earn the "Certified for Microsoft Windows" logo. Applications may carry the "Certified for Microsoft Windows" logo, once they have passed compliance testing and have executed a logo license agreement with Microsoft. This logo lets your customers know that your application offers a high quality computing experience available on Windows.

Windows Certification for server applications is available for any of the following operating systems:

- Windows 2000 Server
- Windows 2000 Advanced Server
- Windows 2000 Datacenter Server

The logo you receive will indicate the version(s) of Windows for which your product is certified. Sample logos are shown below.

Compliance testing for the Windows Certification program is performed by VeriTest, an independent testing lab. Compliance testing will be done using the latest released versions of Windows 2000, including any service packs.

For additional information on how to test for the "Certified for Windows" logo, see http://msdn.microsoft.com/certification.

Note: To simplify the logo programs for both customers and ISVs, the requirements for the Windows 2000 Server logo will over time equal the core baseline BackOffice logo requirements. For more information on the current BackOffice logo, see http://www.microsoft.com/backoffice/designed.

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References

Resource	*Address*
Desktop Application Specification for Windows 2000	http://msdn.microsoft.com/certification/
"Certified for Windows" Logo Program	http://msdn.microsoft.com/certification/
VeriTest Logo Lab email	LogoLab@veritest.com
Certified for Windows Logo email	Winlogo@microsoft.com
Windows 2000 Developer information	http://msdn.microsoft.com/windows2000
BackOffice Logo Program	http://www.microsoft.com/backoffice/designed
Knowledge Base	http://www.microsoft.com/support/
Microsoft Platform SDK (Software Developer Kit) Documents the Win32® and Win64™ application programming interfaces (APIs).	Provided with the Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN) Professional Subscription. To subscribe, visit http://msdn.microsoft.com/subscriptions/

Getting Started

1. Complete the Windows 2000 Application Logo Certification Testing

Veritest is the worldwide laboratory for the "Certified for Windows 2000 Datacenter Server" logo from Microsoft. Once VeriTest has completed the certification test, you can display the official Microsoft logo to show that your application is certified to have the highest level of reliability and performance. For more information, visit the VeriTest Web site at: http://www.veritest.com/mslogos/windows2000/Win2k_datacenter.asp

2. Complete the compatibility or validation test on an IBM Datacenter configuration

Two locations are available to work with vendors to complete compatibility testing of your application on an IBM Datacenter configuration. You can schedule an engagement on an IBM Datacenter configuration in one of the following ways:

Send an email to isvlab@microsoft.com or
Logon to www.developer.ibm.com/centers and register for an available IBM Solution Partnership Center (limited availability centers to open in February 2001)

You can be confident that the IBM Datacenter solutions include certification or validation for compatibility of applications software.

3. Provide 24x7 Support Center Documentation

The ISV or application vendor must provide documentation and contact information for their 24 x 7 support center, and they must agree to maintain the level of support that they have documented. Support information should be provided on the IBM Datacenter contact letter provided in Adobe Acrobat format at: http://www.pc.ibm.com/ww/eserver/xseries/windows/datacenter.html.