



Microsoft Small Business Server 2003 Overview

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Microsoft's most recent **Small Business Server (SBS) 2003 release** targets the needs of today's small-business market. Designed for businesses with 75 or fewer workstations or users, SBS 2003 is the fourth generation of Microsoft's SBS product line, and it boasts simpler installation, configuration, and management than any previous SBS version.

Unlike earlier versions of SBS, SBS 2003 comes in two versions: SBS 2003 Standard Edition and SBS 2003 Premium Edition. The table below lists the components of each edition.

Feature	Standard Edition	Premium Edition
Windows 2003	*	*
Exchange Server 2003	*	*
Microsoft Office Outlook 2003	*	*
SQL Server 2000		*
Windows SharePoint Services	*	*
Shared Fax Service	*	*
RRAS	*	
Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration (ISA) Server 2000		*
Microsoft Office FrontPage 2003		*

Both versions of SBS 2003 include Windows Server 2003 (with its integrated Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services feature), Microsoft Exchange Server 2003, Microsoft Office Outlook 2003, and five Client Access Licenses (CALs). To this base of core components, SBS 2003 Premium Edition adds Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Service Pack 3, Microsoft FrontPage 2003 and Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration (ISA) Server 2000.

The choice between the two versions essentially boils down to whether you need SQL Server. Although a firewall, such as the one that ISA Server provides, is essential, many broadband routers already incorporate firewall capabilities. SBS 2003 Standard Edition includes a basic firewall, but it isn't as full featured as most commercial firewalls.

- ♦ If you need SQL Server, then the bundled pricing of SQL Server 2000 as a part of SBS 2003 Premium Edition is a good buy.
- ♦ If you don't need SQL Server, then SBS 2003 Standard Edition is a better choice.

The budget-conscious small business owner could also choose SBS 2003 Standard Edition and add Microsoft Access, Microsoft Data Engine (MSDE), or a freeware database such as MySQL along with a third party firewall for functionality comparable to SBS 2003 Premium Edition for less cost. In addition, you can often gain a performance advantage by installing the database on a different server from the server that is running Exchange.

Exchange and SharePoint Services

Two core components that are present in both SBS 2003 Standard Edition and SBS 2003 Premium Edition are Exchange 2003 and SharePoint services. The version of Exchange 2003 included with SBS 2003 is essentially identical to the standalone product. The only difference is that Exchange in SBS 2003 is limited to 75 users and the management of the product is made simpler with the addition of SBS wizards, which can simultaneously add users to Windows as well as set up mailboxes within Exchange. Likewise, the version of SharePoint Services included with SBS 2003 is essentially the same as the service that ships with the Windows Server 2003 product.

SharePoint Services lets you easily create Web-based share points. These share points can be thought of as the next generation of a Windows file system share. End users can set up share points to share documents with other users. However, their Web integration also extends the file-sharing capability. For example, with SharePoint Services share points, you can manage who checks in and checks out a document, review document usage and run Web applications. SBS 2003's built-in Help Desk function is an example of how you can use SharePoint Services for more sophisticated Web-based collaborative applications. Although all client systems can use SharePoint Services share, to make the most of SharePoint Services, the client systems must be using Microsoft Office 2003, which includes built-in options for using SharePoint Services share points.

Licensing

The licensing cost for SBS 2003 Standard Edition is \$599, and the licensing cost for SBS 2003 Premium Edition is \$1499. The base licensing for SBS 2003 includes all the server components, and no additional licensing costs are required for the server. In addition, SBS 2003 ships with five CALs-if you plan to attach more than five clients, you must purchase additional CALs. You can attach up to 75 clients to SBS 2003. If you need to attach more than 75 client systems, you must upgrade to the standalone versions of the server components.

SBS 2003 – Meeting today's Small Business Needs

SBS 2003 makes the process of setting up the most commonly required Windows business components such as AD and Exchange easier than ever before. Even so, Microsoft has built this latest version to be installed and maintained by a consultant, VAR, or VAP. A reasonable degree of technical networking expertise is required. After the system is configured, a local business manager can perform most of the common maintenance tasks. Likewise, SharePoint Services makes the task of setting shares easy and user-friendly.

For businesses that are close to the 75-user limit or have more than 75 users, the complications of upgrading SBS 2003 to the full versions of the server stand-alone products make it a poor choice. For business with fewer than 75 users and with some room to grow, Microsoft's aggressive licensing makes SBS 2003 a compelling solution.

For expert assistance with choosing the right software for your business or organization, **contact the knowledgeable professionals at [Kemper Technology Consulting](#)** today!