

Top 10 Reasons to Upgrade to Symantec Ghost™ Solution Suite

Rapid and reliable Microsoft® Windows Vista™ migration without irritation

Overview

The Symantec Ghost Solution Suite is the industry's most widely used corporate solution for imaging, deployment, and ongoing management of systems.¹ Backed with more than 10 years of industry-leading expertise, Symantec Ghost simplifies imaging, operating system migration, software distribution, PC “personality” migration (user data, settings, and profiles), hardware and software inventorying, and secure system retirement.

Symantec Ghost helps lower information technology costs and maintain consistent and compliant desktop and server environments by streamlining and automating IT tasks—from PC acquisition to disposal. A centralized management console makes it easy to ensure a well-managed and well-protected Microsoft Windows® or Linux® environment. Symantec Ghost customers have recognized up to a 100 percent return on investment (ROI) during their first project, and up to a 90 percent reduction in the time and cost associated with managing their systems.²

¹ See “Symantec is well-positioned in the PC imaging market, owning about 90 percent of the installed base with its Ghost and PowerQuest technologies.” —Gartner, Magic Quadrant for PC Life Cycle Configuration Management, October 17, 2005.

² To read more about businesses who have realized such returns, see the following success stories: Joliet Public School District 86 (www.symantec.com/enterprise/solutions/successes/detail.jsp?csid=joliet_public_schools_district_86) American Portwell Technology, Inc. (www.symantec.com/enterprise/solutions/successes/detail.jsp?csid=american_portwell_technology_inc) Pyrotek (www.symantec.com/enterprise/solutions/successes/detail.jsp?csid=pyrotek_inc)

Here are the top 10 reasons why you should upgrade to Symantec Ghost Solution Suite 2.0:

1. Support for Windows Vista

Symantec Ghost Solution Suite 2.0 has been designed to support and enhance Microsoft Windows Vista. Windows Vista support includes the ability to use the Symantec Ghost console/client architecture for:

- Imaging and multicast (one-to-many) deployment
- Operating system and user migration to Windows Vista
- Management of mixed Windows and Linux environments (Windows 98 to Windows Vista)
- Identification and targeting of “Windows Vista-ready” systems (Windows Vista Hardware Inventory Filters—Windows Vista Capable PC and Windows Vista Premium Ready PC)
- Identification of operating system migration gaps (pre-migration planning)
- Secure system retirement

Microsoft's Best Practices state that wherever possible, duplication should be eliminated. Organizations should aim to:

- Automate as much as possible of the end-to-end migration process
- Minimize the overall number of tools required for migration
- Minimize the number of unique machine configurations



Symantec Ghost provides fewer and more integrated tools to improve upon Microsoft's own best practices. This is achieved through a single integrated console for performing and automating all migration tasks, the ability to create hardware-independent images in conjunction with Windows SysPrep and easy image editing.

2. Single console for Windows Vista migration

Business Desktop Deployment (BDD) 2007 is a set of free best practices, guidelines, and tools from Microsoft for deployment of Windows Vista and the 2007 Microsoft Office system. BDD uses four different consoles and two command-line tools to handle migrations, and has no single standard interface to integrate its tools. Symantec Ghost Solution Suite 2.0 provides a single centralized management console for all migration tasks. Symantec Ghost integrates all migration tools, providing both automation and ease of use.

3. Accelerated imaging and deployment

Symantec Ghost Solution Suite provides rapid and reliable imaging and deployment using proven technology. It enables IT organizations to recognize up to a 90 percent reduction in time and budget in comparison to deploying and migrating Windows systems manually.³

The image creation and restoration capabilities of Symantec Ghost are approximately twice as fast as the standard operating system tools provided with Windows Vista. In addition, its imaging technology is truly market-proven and tested as it continues to win multiple user and industry awards year after year.

There are two main deployment approaches used by software solutions within the industry today for migration as well as software and file distribution. The first of these is

known as unicasting, which is a one-to-one deployment approach. This is the approach used by the free tools provided with Microsoft Vista. The other deployment approach is known as multicasting, which is a one-to-many deployment approach. Symantec Ghost supports multicasting, which can provide significantly accelerated operating system migrations and deployments. The multicasting deployment approach is much faster than unicasting, and consumes far less bandwidth. Using Symantec Ghost, administrators can simultaneously deploy an image to hundreds of systems across the network in a matter of minutes.⁴

In addition, the hardware and software inventory filters built into Symantec Ghost allow for highly efficient targeted deployments based on specific client attributes. Two new inventory filters in version 2.0, which are based on 'Windows Vista Capable' and 'Windows Vista Premium Ready' hardware requirements, enable fast and easy identification and targeting of "Windows Vista Ready" systems. The built-in Windows Vista inventory filters in Symantec Ghost can also be of help during the pre-migration planning phase for identifying machines requiring upgrade or secure retirement.

4. Simplified image management

Using Symantec Ghost in conjunction with Windows SysPrep allows administrators to create hardware-independent images suitable for deployment to multiple machine types. For example, a single image can be deployed to both an HP machine and an IBM machine, helping to reduce the overall number of images required for an organization.

³ See Joliet Public School District 86 success story (www.symantec.com/enterprise/solutions/successes/detail.jsp?csid=joliet_public_schools_district_86)

⁴ For more information on the benefits of multicasting versus standard unicasting technology, see http://images.globalknowledge.com/wwwimages/whitepaperpdf/WP_Dooley_NetworkOptimize.pdf

Symantec Ghost Solution Suite 2.0 also provides the ability to edit NTFS, FAT, and ext2/3 images. Administrators can easily add, remove, and modify files and folders within Symantec Ghost images, regardless of the underlying file system. The expanded image editing capability in version 2.0 simplifies overall image management by reducing the need to maintain multiple image files, and making it easy to keep image files up to date.

5. Integrated and comprehensive user migration

Symantec Ghost Solution Suite 2.0 includes integrated Symantec User Migration functionality (previously included as a stand-alone component) and a peer-to-peer migration wizard. Symantec User Migration simplifies and accelerates the migration process by automating many repetitive IT tasks. It permits fast and easy migration of data, application settings, and Windows configuration settings for individual users during a new operating system deployment.

Symantec User Migration also helps to minimize end-user disruption and support issues following computer or operating system changes. Integration of user migration into the centralized Ghost management console enables all migration steps (including capturing user data and settings, deploying a new operating system, performing post-clone configuration, and restoring user data and settings) to be combined into a single task and executed with a single mouse button click. Symantec User Migration provides migration support for an extensive list of popular applications, well beyond Symantec and Microsoft software applications.

The Symantec User Migration Peer-to-Peer Migration Wizard allows complete and secure user migration from one system to another when they are not connected to a network.

Two user migration options are available: Client-initiated migration permits end users to initiate and perform their own migrations via a unique Web-based interface.

Administrator-driven migration allows an administrator to perform user migrations. Both options provide complete control over the file types and applications to be included and excluded. For example, an administrator can specify that the migration tool should capture all .XLS and .DOC files, but exclude all MP3 and .AVI files to comply with corporate policies.

6. New generic variable-based tasks

Generic variable-based tasks offer significant flexibility by permitting parameters such as the image name or group of target systems to be specified at the time of task execution. Generic tasks help to simplify overall task management as they can be re-used over and over simply by supplying different variables.

7. Enhanced ease of use

Neither specialized IT staff nor consultants are required in order to implement and configure Symantec Ghost. Typically, it takes less than 30 minutes to install the main components. Symantec Ghost Solution Suite 2.0 comes with comprehensive software tutorials to help get IT staff up and running quickly.

8. Support for the GUID Partition Table (GPT) standard

Symantec Ghost provides support for GUID Partition Table (GPT), the emerging Intel standard for disk drive partitioning.

9. Support for RAID arrays under WinPE

Administrators can use Symantec Ghost to create and deploy images of hardware RAID arrays under the Microsoft Windows Preinstallation Environment (WinPE). This capability enables administrators to create images of partitions that are much larger than any single drive.

10. New Enterprise Licensing System

Symantec's Enterprise Licensing System notifies administrators when their license limit has been reached, making it easier to keep track of licenses and ensure that your organization remains compliant.

How to upgrade to Symantec Ghost Solution Suite 2.0

Customers who currently have an active maintenance contract for Symantec Ghost Solution Suite 1.x are entitled to upgrade to the appropriate Symantec Ghost Solution Suite 2.0 licenses at no additional charge. These customers will receive notification from Symantec containing information on how to obtain the required product CDs and licenses.

Existing Symantec Ghost Solution Suite, Symantec Ghost, or DeployCenter Library software customers are entitled to purchase upgrades at discounted prices.

More information

Visit our Web site

www.symantec.com/ghost

To download a trialware version of Symantec Ghost Solution Suite 2.0, go to www4.symantec.com/Vrt/offer?a_id=32763.

To speak with a Product Specialist in the U.S.

Call toll-free 1 (800) 745 6054

Or visit www.symantec.com/enterprise/contact_sales.jsp

To speak with a Product Specialist outside the U.S.

Please visit the relevant page for your region below:

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About Symantec

Symantec is a global leader in infrastructure software, enabling businesses and consumers to have confidence in a connected world. The company helps customers protect their infrastructure, information, and interactions by delivering software and services that address risks to security, availability, compliance, and performance. Headquartered in Cupertino, Calif., Symantec has operations in 40 countries. More information is available at www.symantec.com.

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