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Operating System Comparison Guide for Compaq Evo Thin Clients: Microsoft Windows CE .NET and XP Embedded

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This paper provides guidelines for choosing either Microsoft Windows CE .NET or Microsoft Windows XP Embedded for a Compaq Evo Thin Client environment.

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Operating System Comparison Guide for Compaq Evo Thin Clients: Microsoft Windows CE .NET and XP Embedded

North America First Edition (February 2003)

OPERATING SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The Compaq Evo Thin Client T20 and Evo Thin Client T30 support the Windows CE .NET, Windows NT Embedded, and Windows XP Embedded operating systems. The purpose of this document is to compare and contrast the Windows CE .NET and Windows XP Embedded operating systems. The following table provides an overview of each operating system's core features.

Table 1. Operating System Overview

Platform	Features
Windows CE .NET	The simple, low-cost Windows solution for replacement of traditional "green screen" terminals and the rapid deployment of Line of Business (LOB) applications to task-oriented workers.
Windows XP Embedded	The high-end Windows thin client solution that delivers no-compromise functionality including full Internet Explorer 6 browser, device driver availability, local Win32 application support and the highest levels of robust performance

OPERATING SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table outlines certain platform recommendations for Compaq Evo Thin Clients based on various usage scenarios:

Table 2. Operating System Recommendations

Usage Scenario	Client Platform Recommendation
Server-based computing environment where all applications are deployed via Terminal Services	Windows XP Embedded or Windows CE .NET
Access to Web-based services that require fully featured Internet Explorer browser	Windows XP Embedded
Access to Web-based services or corporate Intranets where content is managed to lowest-common denominator formats	Windows CE .NET
Environments that are too harsh for PCs (heat, dust, noise, etc.)	Windows XP Embedded or Windows CE .NET
Replacement of an existing traditional "green screen" terminal	Windows CE .NET
Kiosks (Internet or otherwise)	Windows XP Embedded or Windows CE .NET

FEATURE COMPARISON CHART

The following table is a comparison of Windows CE .NET and Windows XP Embedded features as they relate to Compaq Evo Thin Clients:

Table 3. Feature Comparison Chart

Feature	Windows CE .NET	Windows XP Embedded
Terminal Services	Microsoft Remote Desktop Protocol and Citrix ICA for Windows CE	Microsoft Remote Desktop Protocol and Citrix ICA
Internet Browser	Internet Explorer 5.5-class browser for Windows CE	Internet Explorer 6.0
Multimedia	No media player	MP3, Windows Media 6.4
User Interface	Connection Manager and Control Panel	Windows Explorer shell and Windows XP shell
Plug-ins	None available at this time	Many plug-ins widely available for Windows XP
Java support	Not available at this time	JVM (Microsoft VM)
Local Applications	Windows CE-based applications IMPORTANT: Applications can be added to the Evo T20 and T30 only as a custom build.	Win32® applications IMPORTANT: Available space and processing power must be considered before installing applications.
Processors	X86	X86
Device manageability	Rapport (via SNMP)	Rapport (via agent)
Terminal Emulation	Pericom Suite	Pericom Suite
Device Drivers	Windows CE.net drivers to support basic operation. IMPORTANT: Additional peripheral support can be added to the Evo T20 and T30 only via the 'custom specials' process (contact your local HP representative for details)	All Windows XP drivers if flash space is available, dependencies are met, and drivers are installed outside of MSI package
Typical Memory	32-64 MB RAM	256MB RAM
Typical Storage	16-32 MB Flash memory	192-256 MB Flash memory
Support for Active Server Pages	Yes	Yes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional Compaq Evo Thin Client information, please visit the Compaq thin client website at www.compaq.com/products/thinclients

For additional information on Microsoft embedded operating system assistance, please visit the websites listed below.

Microsoft Embedded Home:

www.microsoft.com/windows/embedded/default.asp

XPe:

www.microsoft.com/windows/embedded/xp/default.asp

XPE Technical Resources:

www.microsoft.com/windows/embedded/xp/techinfo/default.asp

CE .NET:

www.microsoft.com/windows/embedded/ce.net/

CE .NET Technical Resources:

www.microsoft.com/windows/embedded/ce.net/techinfo/default.asp

Microsoft Knowledge Base:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=%2Fsupport%2Fwindows%2Ftopics%2Ferrormsg%2Fsearch%2Easp>