

## GhostNet Periodical - 5th Edition - 3/20/2003

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The Front Line - "A Moment Of Pause"

With a major military conflict looming for many of the troops around the world, we need to take a moment to appreciate the liberties that we take for granted. Whether you agree with the decision of our government or disagree, one thing is perfectly clear; our family abroad is willing to pay the ultimate price for our freedoms. GhostNet, Inc. would like to take the time to wish all of our troops and families the best and god-speed.

"God Bless America"

Patrick Kelley  
Co-founder, Director of Network Operations  
GhostNet, Inc.

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One of the biggest questions that we are asked is, "What operating system should I choose?" With some of the limitations that are now placed on the XP home version of Microsoft's latest release, making it work seamlessly in your corporate or small business environments can be a never-ending headache. Though we will proudly carry the Linux banner high, it is not the best choice at this time for people that have adapted to the "Microsoft" way.

So...without further delay, on with the show!

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Clearview Computing

What is the difference between Windows XP/2000 and 98/ME?

I know a lot of you have wondered what the actual difference is between all the different Windows operating systems that are out there. You have more than likely heard of Windows 95, 98, Me, 2000, XP, and maybe NT, but you want to know the real difference between all of them, other than the year they came out, and which operating system would be the best for you.

First, let us define what Windows operating system, or any operating system for the matter, is. An operating system is basically a program that handles the basic input and output data that passes from your fingertips on the keyboard or mouse, to what you see on your monitor. It also keeps track of files on the hard drive and is responsible for controlling all devices inside the computer and those that are attached to external ports on the computer system. What makes the Windows operating system different from a lot of other operating systems is its ease of use for end-users and its total saturation of the home computing environment. Windows also has the most supported application-based programs, which run on top of Windows. Most non-proprietary hardware also is well supported by and for Windows operating system.

Now that you know what all of the Windows operating systems basic tasks are, we will look into the pros and cons of these different operating systems. Windows 95 and 98/Me all were built upon the foundations of DOS (Disk Operating System) or more directly MS-DOS (Microsoft Disk Operating System.) MS-DOS is a command line operating system, which means that most of the input and output going to and from the computer are non-graphical and have a text-based workbench. Windows 95 is so outdated that you would be thoroughly disappointed if you had a computer running Windows 95 now. Also, Windows 95 doesn't inherently contain support for most new hardware and software, including USB. Windows 95 is also very atrocious in regards to the amount of computer crashes a machine running Windows 95 can go through. Many people still run Windows 98 or Windows Me (Millennium Edition). Although better than Windows 95, Windows 98/Me are still built upon MS-DOS, and usually crashes frequently. Windows NT is most often used in a workplace network environment. Windows NT also has many bugs in the operating system and is not very secure for a network workstation.

The only two Windows operating systems that I suggest for home or office use would be either Windows 2000 or Windows XP. Windows 2000 was originally going to be called Windows NT 5, and although Windows 2000 is built off of NT technology, it is not nearly as horrendous as NT 4 or earlier. Windows 2000 is by far the most stable operating systems and is commonly used in a workplace environment. Windows 2000 Professional is used mainly for workstations, and Windows 2000 Server is used for server situations, such as a basic file and print server or a database server. Windows XP has two versions, which could cause some confusion for some people. Windows XP Professional is the descendant of Windows 2000 Professional and is nearly as stable as 2000. Windows XP Home edition is supposed to be the replacement for Windows 98/Me. Although not nearly as buggy as Windows 98/Me, Windows XP Home edition does not include some very useful utilities and support for network environments, such as joining a domain. Both Windows XP Professional and XP Home have great multimedia packages, and terrific support for most all hardware attached to or inside your computer. I would wholeheartedly suggest Windows XP Professional over XP Home for your personal computer at home. The price difference between the two is moot, when thinking of how often you will have to be bringing your Windows XP Home machine in to have it repaired because of a few bug issues with Windows XP Home edition.

So, when you are out looking for that new computer or thinking about upgrading your computer, definitely pick either Windows 2000 Professional, for your stable workstation environment needs, or Windows XP Professional, for your home multimedia and Internet connection system.

By: Justin Bowers with Gh0stNet, Inc.

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We would also like to welcome a new business to the Gh0stNet, Inc. family.

Bargain Barn - Web Design

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We would also like to take a moment to officially welcome a new member to the Gh0stNet, Inc. team.

Matthew Hardeman - Computer Technician

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