

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This month we're back to a question and answer session. The question is: If I install a Windows server will I need to upgrade all of my computers to Windows XP to be able to work with the server?

The easy answer to this question is: No, you don't have to upgrade your computers to Windows XP to have them work with a new Windows server. Since Windows 95, Microsoft has included a network client for Microsoft Networks and they have made sure that their servers from Windows NT to Windows Server 2003 will work with these clients.

Now there are some good reasons for upgrading the computers to Windows XP Pro that you should consider when installing a new Windows server. The first is that Windows XP Pro is more secure than any of the previous versions and that will make the new server more secure. The second is that Windows XP Pro will allow you to standardize the desktop with the use of the Group Policies provided by the newer Windows servers. Another reason would be the ability to have each user of a computer have their settings and desktop saved for them and it's possible that these settings would float with the user. Windows XP Pro would also allow you to rollout new applications when users log on to the network. There are more but this should get you some things to think about when installing a new Windows server.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer to, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.