



Frequently Asked Questions about the announcement of July 18, 2006

Microsoft and XenSource to Develop Interoperability for Windows Server "Longhorn" Virtualization

What exactly is being done between Microsoft and XenSource?

Microsoft and XenSource have signed an agreement to collaboratively develop and deliver virtualization technology enabling interoperability between Xen-enabled systems and Windows Server "Longhorn" virtualization. Specifically, select Xen-enabled guest operating systems, including Linux, will be able to run virtualized on Windows Server "Longhorn" virtualization and will be supported by Microsoft.

Does XenSource have additional plans based on the developed code?

XenSource intends to build and sell additional future products based on the collaboratively developed code. XenSource will deliver additional value-added products that apply equally well to virtualized Linux or Windows operating systems hosted on both Windows Server virtualization and XenEnterprise. Additionally, XenSource will ensure interoperability of Windows Server guests running on XenEnterprise.

How will customers access the technology?

The technology will be made widely available via commercial license.

Will the code be commercially licensed code or open source code?

This will be commercially licensed code.

When will the technology be delivered?

Beta versions of the Microsoft-XenSource virtualization technology will be available in the second half of 2007. The generally available technology resulting from this agreement is currently expected to be shipped around the same time as the release of Windows Server virtualization: within 180 days of Windows "Longhorn" Server RTM, which is slated for release by the end of 2007.

What if customers want to get started sooner on virtualization, what are their options today?

Both XenSource and Microsoft offer compelling virtualization solutions today. XenEnterprise™, is a commercially licensed multi-OS virtualization platform from XenSource. Microsoft currently provides virtual machine add-ins and technical support for Linux guest operating systems running on Virtual Server 2005 R2. Customers should get started now with either of these products and be assured a supported upgrade path to the future XenSource-Microsoft technology.

Is the development work being done by XenSource, Microsoft or both companies together?

The work product will result from XenSource developers working together with Microsoft developers.

What are the benefits for end users?

The joint efforts between the two companies will deliver customer benefits including:

- *Interoperability by design through collaborative development of two leaders in virtualization technology*
- *A flexible, high performance and more secure virtualization Xen™-enabled solution with Windows Server “Longhorn,” optimized to support heterogeneous software environments and a wide array of hardware*
- *Microsoft technical support for issues regarding interoperability with Xen-enabled Linux guest operating systems through the standard Microsoft technical support process*
- *Additional products from XenSource that enhance manageability, performance, and reliability based on the collaboratively developed code.*
- *Microsoft Support for Windows on XenEnterprise, available in Q3 2006*

What does this mean for the open source Xen™ hypervisor?

This agreement is positive for users of the Xen-based systems since customers of all sizes can freely deploy their guest operating system images interchangeably between Xen-based systems and Windows Server virtualization. The interface between the guest and Windows Server virtualization is the Xen Hypercall API, mapped to the Windows Server virtualization Hypercall API, so more and more people will use these systems resulting in better quality and more support.

This agreement results in Xen interfaces being deployed on every major x86 operating system, including Red Hat Enterprise Linux ®, Novell’s SLES, and Windows Server “Longhorn”.

What is the commercial arrangement?

Microsoft and XenSource have entered into a multi-year agreement to insure delivery and support of this technology. Resources are being provided by both companies. For example, XenSource has opened and staffed a Redmond, WA office.

Financial details of the agreement are not being disclosed.

What is the impact for Linux vendors?

The collaborative work expands the potential number of servers onto which Linux vendors can deliver their products.

Is XenSource supporting Linux in this environment?

XenSource does not plan to support Linux directly.

Is Microsoft endorsing XenSource to enable Windows on XenEnterprise?

Microsoft supports customers that choose to run Windows on XenEnterprise . This agreement builds on an ongoing relationship between Microsoft and XenSource. XenSource has previously licensed the Microsoft Virtual Hard Disk format to enable interoperability with Microsoft virtualization technologies. For customers with Premier-level support agreements, Microsoft will use commercially reasonable efforts to address potential issues with Microsoft software running in XenEnterprise.

Is Microsoft contributing to OSS?

No. Not at this time.

Why has Microsoft chosen to work with XenSource?

XenSource was chosen based on its unique and extensive experience in Open Source and Linux virtualization. The founders of XenSource are the founders of the Xen OSS hypervisor project, the most widely used form of Linux OSS virtualization. The current project leader of the Xen OSS project, Ian Pratt, is a founder and architect at XenSource. XenSource has proven multi-OS technical ability with the XenEnterprise product. This team is uniquely qualified to build the software product.

Why has XenSource chosen to work with Microsoft?

Windows Server is the market segment share leader. Customers have open source software, and customers have commercial software, especially Windows. Interoperability is a tremendous benefit to customers who have both Linux and Windows and seek to have a standard multi-OS virtualization platform such as XenEnterprise. By working directly with Microsoft, XenSource customers are assured the best technical development for interoperability between XenEnterprise, Xen-enabled Linux and Windows Server virtualization. XenSource will develop additional future products based on the collaboratively developed code that enhance manageability, performance, and reliability.

About XenSource™, Inc. *XenSource™, Inc. develops enterprise-grade virtualization solutions based on the industry's fastest and most secure server virtualization technology, the open source Xen™ hypervisor. Founded and run by the original Xen™ development team, XenSource™ products allow enterprises to realize the TCO savings that result from server consolidation, increased utilization, and reduced complexity in the datacenter. Find out more at www.xensource.com*



Delivering the Power of Xen

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