

Windows XP SP2 Feature List

The following is a list of the top features in Service Pack 2 and a description of the benefit each feature provides. Use these benefit statements when providing a high level overview of Service Pack 2 to evidence why customers would want to install. Please do not alter the names listed.

Windows Firewall enhancements and updates

Windows Firewall Update

Updates and automatically turns on the powerful, built-in Windows Firewall (previously Internet Connection Firewall) to increase the security of your PC and reduce the risk of network and internet-based attacks.

Windows Firewall On-With-No-Exceptions Mode

Helps prevent network-based attacks by helping users them block all unsolicited inbound traffic.

Windows Firewall Boot Time and Shutdown Security

Offers additional protection against viruses and hackers by extending Windows Firewall protection to computer's boot time and shut down process.

Windows Firewall User Interface Update

Adds an icon to the Network and Internet Connections control panel and installs a new User Interface that makes it easy to access and configure new Windows Firewall capabilities.

Windows Firewall Exception List

Enables administrators to better manage applications and increase security with Windows Firewall by specifying only ports needed by an application to be open.

Windows Firewall Multiple Profile Support

Allows administrators to define two profiles for each user - one for operating inside a corporate network and an alternate profile for mobile scenarios.

Windows Firewall Global Configuration

Enables administrators to apply a Windows Firewall configuration to all network connections.

Windows Firewall Group Policy Support

Enables IT administrators to configure all Windows Firewall group policy settings from a central location.

Windows Firewall Local-Subnet Restrictions

Windows Firewall can be configured so that applications can only receive traffic from inside an organization's network. This reduces the potential of network-based attacks while still enabling critical, network-based applications to function properly.

Internet Explorer enhancements and updates

Internet Explorer Information Bar

Provides better control over Internet Explorer downloads by installing a new toolbar that alerts end users to unsigned controls and downloads that could pose security risks.

Internet Explorer Pop-Up Blocker

Installs a new, integrated Pop-Up Blocker for Internet Explorer that helps users take control and reduce unwanted ads and content.

Internet Explorer Local Machine Zone Lockdown

Detracts from hackers' abilities to attack a PC by restricting HTML in the local machine zone from running with elevated system privileges.

[Internet Explorer Add-on Manager](#)

Allows administrators to easily manage and enforce a list of add-ons to Internet Explorer that are either permitted or disabled to enhance security and reduce the potential for crashes.

[Internet Explorer Download Monitoring](#)

Updates the Authenticode download dialog to provide better, more meaningful information about where code comes from and who wrote it to assist users in making informed decisions about whether or not to download and run code.

[Internet Explorer Security Improvements](#)

Installs code-level changes in Internet Explorer that help protect against certain types of exploits – such as restricting script-initiated windows that can be used to hide or move Internet Explorer controls and conceal malicious activity.

[Internet Explorer Default Security Settings](#)

Bolsters users' security profile by applying personal security settings to files and content processed by Internet Explorer.

[Other enhancements and updates](#)

[Centralized Management of Windows Firewall and Internet Explorer](#)

Provides system administrators with more configuration options for Windows Firewall and Internet Explorer, such as Group Policy, command line, and unattended setup.

[Remote Assistance Update](#)

Provides better logging capabilities for Remote Assistance sessions by allowing for easy tracking of start/stop time of session, IP address/user name, and record of activities performed.

[Service Changes to Remote Procedure Call \(RPC\)](#)

New security settings and registry key designed to ensure proper authentication and to protect users from potential exploits by limiting the RPC surface area that is exposed.

[Data Execution Prevention](#)

Reduces the risk of buffer overrun vulnerabilities by helping prevent certain types of malicious code from attacking and overwhelming a computer's memory.

[Attachment Manager](#)

Establishes strong default protection against viruses that spread through Outlook® Express, Windows Messenger, and Internet Explorer by isolating attachments during the opening process to help identify potentially unsafe ones.

[New Wireless LAN client](#)

Provides enables users to more easily discover and connect to hotspots by providing a widely recognized LAN client.

[Flash Configuration Wireless Setup](#)

Includes new technology and a setup wizard that simplifies the deployment of secure wireless network connections and the installation of network-connected devices.

[Automatic Update \(AU\) enhancements](#)

Makes Automatic Updates simpler and easier to use with an improved dialogue box and new technology that helps narrow band customers download more efficiently.

[Video Driver Update](#)

Provides a new USB video driver with standard hardware specification that reduces the need for ISVs to develop kernel-mode video device drivers.

[Windows Security Center](#)

The new Windows Security Center makes it easy to check security status and manage security resources by providing a single, unified view of key settings and tools.

[Windows Messenger Update](#)

Updates Windows Messenger with additional security features designed to help protect users' privacy online.

[Outlook® Express Anti-Spam Update](#)

Provides enhanced default security for a users' e-mail by helping to prevent validation of an e-mail address by potential spammers.

[Bluetooth® Update](#)

Enables users to more easily benefit from the latest Bluetooth-enabled hardware devices such as keyboards, mice, cell phones and PDAs.

[Windows Media® 9 Series Update](#)

Helps users more securely enjoy music, video and broadband content by installing the new Windows Media® Player.

[Microsoft DirectX® 9.0b](#)

Ensures that users get DirectX 9.0b, the latest, most stable version of Microsoft's gaming and graphics technology.