

Symantec vs. Microsoft Solutions

Product Overview

**Altiris Deployment Solution from Symantec** is our recommended solution for Windows 7 migrations. It offers an integrated and hands-free process based on 10 years of deployment and migration experience. It incorporates the best features of Ghost imaging and is included in Altiris Client Management Suite for ongoing management. Note that Deployment Solution 6.9 SP3 specifically supports the Windows 7 operating system.

**Microsoft Deployment Toolkit 2010** is Microsoft’s recommended process and toolset for automating desktop and server deployment. This free toolset is initially attractive to many customers based on its perceived cost advantage. However there are many technical features that are not enterprise ready – both in the technology employed and ease of use features.

Product Comparison

Altiris Deployment Solution (DS)	Microsoft Deployment Toolkit (MDT)
<p><b>Single solution with a one console and database.</b></p> <p>Symantec’s solution is based on a single product with a simplified setup that require minimal components. All of the features are fully integrated to simplify training. Most customers can perform migrations using Deployment Solution, but some may want to use Client Management Suite for additional reporting capabilities and ongoing lifecycle management.</p>	<p><b>Collection of 6 six tools with different consoles and databases.</b></p> <p>MDT includes multiple consoles and databases with little integration. The toolkit is comprised of Microsoft Deployment Toolkit (MDT), Windows Automated Installation Toolkit (WAIK), Application Compatibility Toolkit (ACT), Microsoft Assessment and Planning Toolkit (MAP), User State Migration Toolkit (USMT), and Windows Deployment Services (WDS) which is a server role installed and configured in Windows Server 2008.</p>
<p><b>Offers zero-touch migrations from any previous operating system, including Windows 2000 and X.P</b></p> <p>Symantec has the ability to fully automate migrations hands free as well as provide a migration portal for users to perform their own migrations.</p>	<p><b>When deployed standalone, migrations require administrative intervention.</b></p> <p>The administrator must physically be at the computer to answer on screen prompts. If zero-touch migrations are desired then System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM) 2007 must be implemented in addition to MDT. The solution is no longer free.</p>
<p><b>Supports multiple imaging technologies.</b></p> <p>Symantec supports not only supports the Windows-only imaging format (.WIM), we also support RapidDeploy, Ghost, PowerQuest, VMware, and Macintosh formats.</p>	<p><b>Only supports the Windows-only imaging format</b></p> <p>Microsoft only supports their Windows only imaging format, .WIM. For non-Windows imaging a 3<sup>rd</sup> party tool must be purchased, such as Altiris Deployment Solution.</p>
<p><b>Includes migration templates for over 60 applications out-of-the-box, and a custom personality builder.</b></p> <p>All of the features are accessed through an intuitive and easy to use graphical user interface. In addition to templates for over 60 applications, Symantec also has a custom personality builder that fully automates the creation of templates for home-grown or specialty applications.</p>	<p><b>User State Migration Tool (USMT) requires command-line, scripting, and XML editing knowledge.</b></p> <p>USMT does not have a graphical user interface and requires command-line, scripting, and XML editing knowledge . It requires in-depth application knowledge to migrate applications that are not supported out-of-box. Microsoft recommends using tools such as RegMon and ProcessMon to determine what files and registry keys an application uses and to enter them by hand into an XML file.</p>
<p><b>Requires minimal hardware and provides full multicasting and PXE deployment capabilities with no hidden catches.</b></p> <p>Symantec provides full multicasting and PXE deployment capabilities, and simplifies the setup by automatically installing multicast and PXE capabilities on any server it is installed on.</p>	<p><b>Requires additional hardware and configuration changes to function over large network environments.</b></p> <p>For multicast and PXE capabilities a Windows Server 2008 with the WDS role must be installed. Unlike the Symantec migration tools, a Server 2008 must also be placed on every network segment since it cannot span subnets. The only other option would be to reconfigure all routers to allow broadcast traffic.</p>

## Symantec vs. Microsoft Solutions

Altiris Deployment Solution (DS)	Microsoft Deployment Toolkit (MDT)
<p><b>Designed for Distributed Customer Environments</b></p> <p>Our solutions are designed for small or large customers with simple or geographically disperse environments. Symantec provides granular bandwidth control and multicast for both operating system and software deployment.</p>	<p><b>Limited Support for Various Network Configurations</b></p> <p>For bandwidth control, Microsoft uses BITS which only looks at the local network to determine available bandwidth. This can saturate the network if data is being transferred over a slow WAN. Microsoft only supports multicast for OS deployments.</p>
<p><b>Extends migration capabilities with integrated packaging and virtualization technologies.</b></p> <p>Symantec integrates with Wise Package Studio from Symantec to test and create consistent installation packages for Windows 7 and application virtualization technologies to make your migration a success.</p>	<p><b>No support for enterprise packaging.</b></p> <p>MDT does not provide any packaging capabilities, however customers can utilize the features in Wise Package Studio from Symantec.</p>

### Additional Comments

- Microsoft's Hardware Assessment Planning Toolkit is a standalone tool and could be used alongside the Symantec tools. It performs an agent-less scan of the environment to provide high level and detailed reports that help an administrator determine if the hardware in the environment can migrate to Windows 7.
- Microsoft's Application Compatibility Toolkit is a standalone tool and could be used alongside the Symantec tools as they do not provide this type of analysis. It uses an online database to determine application readiness for migration to Windows 7.
- Symantec continues to support in-place migrations without having to push user and application data up to a server. Microsoft places a heavy focus on the ability to perform a similar in-place migration with USMT as a unique feature.