

CECA Compatibility Testing
7/2004
Windows XP Service Pack 2

Test PCs: Dual Opteron 2.2 Ghz w/2 G RAM, Pentium III 500Mhz w/ 256 M RAM

Size of Install: Approximately 100M

Time for Install (not including download time): Dual Opteron: 35 Minutes, Pentium III: 2 Hours

Performance Hit: The Opteron did not noticeably slow after SP2. Unfortunately that was not true for the Pentium III. Where the P III was a usable PC before SP2, it was not after SP2. Constant disk thrashing (virtual memory) dragged the P III's performance by at least half. Any PC that has SP2 applied to it should have at least 512M of RAM.

Windows System Update Service (SUS): The registry entries relevant to using windowsupdate.ceca.utc.edu are not modified by SP2. It is also possible apply the registry changes (.reg file) that UTC is currently using after SP2 has been applied. In both cases the Automatic Updates control panel is greyed out.

Norton Antivirus: Version 7.61. Installed as Administrator. Norton Antivirus was able to install and retrieve updates without a problem after the installation of SP2. It also worked on a PC that had NAV installed and was upgraded from SP1 to SP2. The "Security Center" Control Panel installed by SP2 did not recognize NAV as a valid antivirus program and complained that the PC was not protected even though NAV was fully functional.

SAP Login (IRIS): Version 6.20. Installed as Administrator. Used as Standard User. SAP worked without a problem.

IRIS WebGUI: Using Internet Explorer 6 I was able to logon to the UT portal (my.tennessee.edu) and the WebGUI for IRIS. When accessing WebGUI for the first time, the new Windows "Data Exception Protection" blocked my access. Once I allowed Internet Explorer as an exception to DEP, access to WebGUI was restored. This removes some of the protection provided to IE by SP2.

Internet Explorer: Version 6. Used as Standard User. No problems

Outlook Express: Version 6. Used as Standard User. Both IMAP and POP worked without a problem.

Mozilla Firefox: Version 0.92. Used as Standard User. Installed as Administrator. On the Opteron w/Firefox preinstalled, Firefox stopped functioning after SP2 had been applied. For the P III, Firefox worked w/o a problem.

Mozilla: Version 1.7.1. Used as Standard User. Installed as Administrator. On the Opteron w/Mozilla preinstalled, Mozilla stopped functioning after SP2 had been applied. For the P III, Mozilla's worked for browsing and email using IMAP and POP.

Netscape: Version 7.01. Installed/Used as Administrator. Operated as expected.

Eudora: Version 6.1. Installed as Administrator. Used as Standard User. Both IMAP and POP worked without a problem.

Novell Client: Version 4.9 (UTC Specific). Installed as Administrator. Used as Standard User. Logged into the NDS tree without a problem. Windows Firewall detected and blocked "dpmw32" when it tried to access the network. The user is prompted with "Keep Blocking", "Unblock", or "Ask Later." This application is part of Novell's Distributed Printing Client so I "Unblocked" it. Access to my network drives (P: S:) as well as the SYS volume of Timex worked without a problem.

NetDrive Client: Version 4.1. Installed/Used as Administrator. Both WebDAV connections to onedrive and ftp connections to oneftp worked without a problem.

DreamWeaver WebDAV: Version 2004 MX. Installed/Used as Administrator. While I could never get DW to agree with the proper capitalization for access to onedrive, I did manage to verify that it was communicating with the server.

EMS Enterprise: Version 2.2a. Installed/Used as Administrator. Initially Windows security settings stopped the EMS client from accessing the Access database, but this was easily corrected by allowing Access as an exception. This interference occurred as a popup dialog during the initial execution of the EMS client. The EMS client then functioned normally.

Given the substantial changes brought by SP2, along with the appearant performance cost, I strongly recommend that we install SP2 selectively on UTC PCs. Using the SUS server to push SP2 "out" will probably create more work than the benefits are worth.