Chapter 1

Windows XP Professional: Features, Benefits, and Uses
This chapter discusses the features that Windows XP Professional provides, points out the benefits that Windows XP Professional offers over previous versions of Windows, and explains the uses for which Windows XP Professional is intended.

Features of Windows XP Professional

This section describes the most compelling features of Windows XP Professional. Some of these features are new in Windows XP Professional. Others are improved versions of features included in Windows 2000 Professional, Windows NT 4 Workstation, or Windows 9x (Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows 98 Second Edition, and Windows Me).

Code Base, Migration, Updating, and Recovery

This section discusses the features related to Windows XP Professional’s code base, migrating users to Windows XP Professional, keeping Windows XP Professional updated, and recovering from disaster.

NT Code Base for Stability

Windows XP Professional is built on Microsoft’s New Technology (NT) code base to deliver stability. Windows XP Professional uses a protected memory model that prevents one application from overwriting memory used by another operating system (OS).

Files and Settings Transfer Wizard

The Files and Settings Transfer Wizard lets you quickly transfer document files and settings from one computer to another. This feature greatly simplifies the process of migrating a user from one computer to another or from one version of Windows to another.

Windows Update

Windows Update is a feature that can automatically connect to Microsoft’s Windows Update web site and download updates to Windows XP Professional and the Microsoft applications that are typically included with it (such as Internet Explorer and Windows Messenger). Administrators can then decide whether to install the updates. Administrators can also configure Windows Update not to run. For example, in a corporate setting, administrators may turn off Windows Update, and then install updates and patches automatically by using management features.

Windows Update is a key feature of Windows XP Professional because it provides a mechanism for patching security holes and defective code. At this writing, Windows XP Professional has been shown to have some serious security holes, which makes Windows Update all the more important.

All operating systems (OSs) and all software applications include bugs—they’re more or less a fact of programming life when software becomes functional enough to be useful. But because Microsoft’s OSs and applications are so widely used, they’re a
favorite target of malefactors. Worse, Microsoft has included some powerful but poorly secured features in its OSs and applications that malefactors love to exploit. For example, the Visual Basic for Applications programming language included with Microsoft’s major applications (Word, Excel, Access, Outlook, and others) can affect not only the host application but other applications and the OS as well. As a result, macro viruses in VBA host can automatically send e-mail messages and attachments, create and delete files, format drives, and more. Scripts in Windows XP Professional and applications such as Outlook Express can automatically execute a wide variety of actions on your computer without your consent.

Consider the following selection of security problems that surfaced in summer 2002:

- A bug in Windows Media Player that would let an attacker execute a script on your computer. This bug was patched in June 2002.
- A problem with the implementation of checking digital certificates (a means of authentication and verifying identity in electronic communications) that could let an attacker dupe Internet Explorer into believing it had established a secure connection with a web site. Because secure connections are typically used by e-commerce sites, this problem meant that millions of supposedly secure transactions might not have been secure. This problem was patched in September 2002.
- A flaw in the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) in Internet Explorer that could give an attacker complete control of your computer. This bug was patched in September 2002.
- A security vulnerability in Windows XP’s Help and Support Center that allows an attacker to delete files on your computer by sending you a deliberately malformed URL. This vulnerability was fixed in Windows XP Service Pack 1.
- Two serious bugs in Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP), the protocol used for Remote Desktop sessions. One bug makes it relatively easy for an attacker to analyze a captured communications session to work out a user’s keystrokes. The other bug lets an attacker crash a system that’s configured to accept Remote Desktop connections. These bugs were discovered by a third-party security developer in April 2002, but weren’t announced publicly until they were fixed in Windows XP Service Pack 1 (September 2002).

By using Windows Update and (preferably) by installing Windows XP Service Pack 1, you can protect your computer against these attacks. By using Windows Update, you should also be able to protect your computer against future attacks that exploit newly discovered vulnerabilities. Windows Update also lets Microsoft push out improvements to Windows XP and the applications that come with it (for example, by adding features or by making existing features work better).
So Windows Update is a strong and positive feature for Windows XP Professional. Unfortunately, there’s a downside to Windows Update as well. Having Windows Update apply updates to your computer automatically involves involuntary acceptance of the End-User License Agreements (EULAs) that Microsoft applies to those updates. Recent (at this writing) updates have included language such as the following:

- “Microsoft may provide security related updates to the OS Components that will be automatically downloaded onto your computer. These security related updates may disable your ability to copy and/or play Secure Content and use other software on your computer.”
- “You acknowledge and agree that Microsoft may automatically check the version of the OS Product and/or its components that you are utilizing and may provide upgrades or fixes to the OS Product that will be automatically downloaded to your computer.”

Some user advocates have raised concerns that by accepting such EULAs, you agree to Microsoft’s automatically installing software on your computer at its discretion. However, if you don’t accept these conditions, your computer remains exposed to serious security problems, such as those detailed earlier in this section.

Besides any worries that you may have about EULAs, you should be aware that Microsoft regards patches as “tactical responses” with timeliness the “overriding consideration.” Microsoft states: “Service packs, in contrast, can be much more extensively tested, and thus the quality is much higher.” Few Windows XP Professional users find such words reassuring when they refer to critical security patches that Windows Update installs by default on their computers. If such patches have quality much lower than the fixes in service packs, how good can they be?

**Automated System Recovery**

Automated System Recovery (ASR) lets you make a backup of your system that you can restore by booting from the Windows XP Professional CD and supplying ASR with a floppy containing configuration-file information and with the backup file.

**Remote Desktop**

*Remote Desktop* is the new name for Terminal Services. Windows XP Professional includes a one-connection version of Terminal Services, which lets you control your computer remotely by using Remote Desktop Connection from any 32-bit version of Windows.

**Hardware-Related Features**

Windows XP Professional includes several new hardware-related features, from a version of the OS designed for the Intel Itanium processor to the ClearType font-improvement feature.
Chapter 1: Windows XP Professional: Features, Benefits, and Uses

x86 and Itanium Versions
Windows XP Professional comes in a 32-bit version designed for x86 processors (for example, Pentium II, Pentium III, Pentium IV, Celeron, Athlon, and Duron processors) and a 64-bit version designed for the Intel Itanium processor.

Because computers using Itanium processors are about as rare—and as expensive—as large diamonds at this writing, this book doesn’t discuss the 64-bit version of Windows XP Professional.

Hardware Compatibility and Device Driver Rollback
Windows XP Professional is compatible with a wide range of hardware. The Windows XP Professional installation CD contains drivers for many devices, and you can download others via Windows Update.

When you update a driver, Windows XP Professional stores the details of the previous driver you used so that you can easily revert to it if the updated driver isn’t satisfactory.

Power-Saving Features for Portable Computers
Windows XP Professional features processor power control for mobile processors that can run at different speeds when plugged in rather than when running on batteries. To further save battery power, Windows XP Professional dims the screen automatically when a portable computer is running on batteries.

ClearType
Windows XP Professional includes ClearType, a font-improvement feature that smooths the rendering of fonts on LCD monitors.

Help Features
Windows XP Professional includes two powerful help features: Remote Assistance and Help and Support Center.

Remote Assistance
Remote Assistance is a new help mechanism that lets you invite a friend, acquaintance, or administrator to help you solve a problem by connecting to your computer, viewing your display remotely, and communicating with you using text-based chat or voice. You can choose whether to let your helper take control of your computer so that he can help you solve the problem. In Windows XP Professional, administrators can also offer unsolicited help to users.

Remote Assistance works the other way as well: you can help someone else solve a problem.
Help and Support Center
Windows XP Professional’s Help and Support Center integrates Help files stored on your hard drive with a capability to search the Microsoft Knowledge Base and other online sources of help for further information.

Administration, Multiuser Support, and Fast User Switching
Windows XP Professional is designed for use as a secure multiuser OS. When used in a standalone or workgroup configuration, Windows XP Professional’s Fast User Switching feature enables multiple users to be logged on to the same computer at the same time.

Administration Features
Windows XP Professional includes features for integrating tightly with Windows 2000 Server and Windows.NET Server to simplify software installation, maintenance, and administration. In its corporate role (discussed in “Corporate Use,” later in this chapter), Windows XP Professional is designed to log on to Windows domains and to be managed by the Windows 2000 Server and Windows.NET Server administration tools. For example, a domain administrator can install Windows XP Professional by using Remote Installation Services (RIS), install applications on Windows XP Professional by using IntelliMirror, and use group policy objects to control the configuration and behavior of Windows XP Professional clients. This remote administration saves much time and effort over configuring each computer manually.

Multiuser Support
Like Windows NT Workstation and Windows 2000 Professional, Windows XP Professional is designed to be a secure multiuser client OS. You can set up multiple user accounts on the same computer. Users have their own customized settings (if you allow them to) and their own folder structure that other users can’t access.

Fast User Switching (Workgroups Only)
Windows XP Professional supports multiple concurrent user sessions on standalone computers and workgroup computers, but not on computers connected to a domain. At any given time, one user session can be active, while all other user sessions are disconnected. The active session appears on screen. Any disconnected sessions are hidden in the background. After you finish working, you can either log off (to end your session) or switch user, which disconnects your active session so that another user can log on. The applications you left open remain running in the disconnected session, so when you log back on, you can resume work where you left off. This feature is called Fast User Switching.

When used in a domain, Windows XP Professional doesn’t use Fast User Switching. Only one user can be logged on to the computer at a time. No session can be disconnected.
Software Compatibility, Capabilities, and Applications

This section discusses software compatibility issues, Windows XP Professional's software capabilities, and notable features of the applications and applets typically included in Windows XP Professional installations.

Software Compatibility and Compatibility Mode

Windows XP Professional can run many of the applications that run on Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows Me, Windows NT 4, and Windows 2000 Professional. Many applications run seamlessly, but some applications need you to manually apply Windows XP Professional’s Compatibility mode settings, which emulate the earlier versions of Windows on which older applications were designed to run.

Windows XP Professional can also run many DOS applications. However, some older applications don’t run on Windows XP Professional, not even in any compatibility mode. If you need to use an application that won’t run on Windows XP Professional, you have three choices:

- Stay with your previous version of Windows so that you can run the application.
- Set up Windows XP Professional as a dual-boot with your old version of Windows so that you can boot into the old version when you need to run the application. Unless you need the application only occasionally, this solution is poor.
- Install PC-emulation software such as Virtual PC (www.connectix.com) or VMWare (www.vmware.com) on Windows XP Professional so that you run an emulated PC with the old version of Windows that can run the application. Because emulation is slow and doesn’t provide full access to your computer’s peripherals (for example, USB or FireWire devices), this solution works only for productivity applications that require neither blazing performance nor direct access to peripherals.

Support for Multiple Languages Simultaneously

Windows XP Professional lets you use multiple languages simultaneously. (By contrast, Windows XP Home Edition lets you use only one language at a time. You can switch from one language to another.)

Faxing

Windows XP Professional includes basic faxing capabilities.

CD Burning

Windows XP Professional includes basic CD-burning capabilities for creating both data CDs (in the Orange Book format) and audio CDs (in the Red Book format).
Audio and Video Features
Windows XP Professional includes a new version of Windows Media Player, which can play everything from MP3 files to DVDs (with added DVD-player software).
Windows Image Acquisition (WIA) makes it easier to connect scanners, video cameras, or digital cameras to computers running Windows XP Professional.

Improvements to Windows Explorer
The version of Windows Explorer in Windows XP Professional features several improvements, including the following.

WebView and ListView
WebView and ListView present two, three, or four panes on the left side of a Windows Explorer window containing actions relevant to the selected item or items, navigation links to folders related to the current folder, and details on any selected item or items. “WebView and ListView” in Chapter 8 discusses WebView and ListView.

Folder Templates
Windows Explorer includes customized folder templates for music folders and picture folders that contain links for manipulating the music files or pictures.
The folder templates for picture folders include Filmstrip view, discussed next.

Filmstrip View
Windows Explorer’s new Filmstrip view provides an easy means of browsing through graphics files. Filmstrip view displays a row of miniature pictures across the bottom of the window with an enlarged version of the selected picture above them. Filmstrip view provides buttons for rotating the selected picture clockwise and counterclockwise.

Filmstrip view is available in the Photo Album folder template and the Pictures folder template.

Compressed Folders
Windows XP Professional’s version of Windows Explorer can open Zip (ZIP) folders and Microsoft Cabinet (CAB) folders as if they were regular folders. Windows Explorer can create Zip folders, but not Cabinet folders. Windows XP Professional includes the MAKECAB.EXE command-line utility for creating Cabinet folders.

Customizable AutoPlay
In Windows XP Professional, AutoPlay applies not only to CD and DVD drives but also to removable drives such as Zip drives, USB and FireWire external hard drives, PC Cards, SmartMedia cards, CompactFlash cards, and Memory Stick devices. You can customize the actions AutoPlay takes for different types of content.

Enhanced Applets
Like previous versions of Windows, Windows XP Professional includes a number of applets that provide basic functionality. In most corporate settings, these applets have
been used for relatively few tasks—in fact, the applets are specifically designed not to provide enough functionality for any but the lightest tasks, so that corporations won’t be tempted to forego buying full-fledged applications. For example, the WordPad applet provides word-processing functionality too limited for anyone who needs to create anything more than the simplest document, so most corporations end up buying a full word-processing application to supplement it.

Windows XP Professional features include new and enhanced applets, including the following:

- **Windows Picture and Fax Viewer** provides basic tools for manipulating graphics and for annotating TIFF files. Windows Picture and Fax Viewer takes the place of Image Preview in earlier versions of Windows.
- **Microsoft Paint** can save pictures in a variety of formats and can capture still pictures from a video feed.
- **Notepad** can open text files of any size. (Earlier versions of Notepad could open only small text files.)
- **Command Prompt** automatically uses command extensions, which give some command-prompt commands greater power and ease of use.

**Networking Features**

Windows XP Professional includes a strong set of networking tools, including the following:

- **The Network Setup Wizard** helps you set up small networks.
- **The All-User Remote Access Service** (AURAS) lets you share an Internet connection with other users of your computer without telling them the user name and password. (AURAS is primarily useful for standalone and workgroup computers.)
- **Internet Connection Sharing** (ICS) provides easy sharing of an Internet connection with other computers on your network. Windows 98 Second Edition, Windows Me, and Windows 2000 Professional include ICS, but Windows XP Professional’s version is improved and features Internet Connection Firewall (discussed next). ICS is primarily useful in standalone and workgroup configurations.
- **Internet Connection Firewall** (ICF) is a software firewall that works together with ICS to protect your Internet connection. You can also use ICF on network connections.
- **Automatic Private IP Addressing** (APIPA) lets Windows XP Professional assign itself an IP address when a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server isn’t available. APIPA is useful both for computers that sometimes connect to a
domain-based network and sometimes don’t (for example, a sales rep’s notebook), and for ad-hoc home networking.

- **Network bridging** lets you easily connect two separate networks into a single network. This feature is primarily useful in standalone and workgroup configurations.

## Benefits of Windows XP Professional

This section discusses the benefits that Windows XP Professional offers over previous versions of Windows used in corporate settings: Windows 2000 Professional, Windows NT 4 Workstation, and Windows 9x.

For many corporations, Windows XP Professional offers significant benefits over previous versions of Windows.

### Benefits Over Previous Desktop Versions of Windows

Windows XP Professional offers three main benefits over all previous desktop versions of Windows: its streamlined user interface, the Windows File Protection feature, and its improved Windows Update feature.

### Revamped User Interface

Windows XP Professional offers an updated user interface, which it shares with Windows XP Home Edition. The interface is designed to give you quicker access to your applications and files while providing a pleasing look and user experience. For example, the Windows XP Start menu changes its contents to display shortcuts for the applications you use most frequently. Similarly, Windows Explorer’s new WebView and ListView features simplify navigation among the folders you supposedly use most frequently, and the actions you need to take with them and the files they contain. Microsoft has also redesigned the taskbar and the System Tray or notification area.

Some people like Windows XP’s new interface. Others don’t. If you don’t like it, you can easily restore Windows XP Professional to using the “classic” Windows interface that Windows 2000 Professional and Windows 98 used.

### Windows File Protection

Windows File Protection tries to prevent you from deleting system files. If you succeed in deleting some of them (or if malware does so), Window File Protection restores the files automatically from a cache when it notices the files are missing.

### Windows Update

Windows XP Professional’s improved version of Windows Update provides an effective way of keeping Windows XP Professional up-to-date. However, in domain
environments, administrators may choose to disable Windows Update so that they can apply updates and patches consistently to all computers in the domain.

**Benefits Over Windows 2000 Professional**

Windows XP Professional offers relatively few benefits over Windows 2000 Professional in corporate settings, where features such as improved image acquisition tend to be less important than in the consumer market.

Windows XP Professional’s main benefit is its increased compatibility with more applications than Windows 2000 Professional could run. Windows XP Professional also supports a wider range of hardware than Windows 2000 Professional. For those who use a portable computer in a docked configuration, DualView can provide significant benefits.

From Windows 2000 Professional, Windows XP Professional is an incremental upgrade.

**Benefits Over Windows NT 4 Workstation**

Windows XP Professional offers significant benefits over Windows NT 4 Workstation. In addition to its greatly increased compatibility with applications and support for a much wider range of hardware, Windows XP Professional offers improved communications (for example, Remote Desktop), security (for example, Encrypting File System and IP Security), and management tools.

**Benefits Over Windows 9x**

Windows XP Professional delivers significant benefits over Windows 9x. These are the most notable benefits:

**Stability**

Because they included 16-bit code for backwards compatibility with DOS and Windows 3.1 applications, Windows 9x versions were notorious for their instability. Because Windows 9x didn’t protect memory effectively, a badly written application could overwrite memory registers used by another application or by Windows itself. This typically crashed both the offending application and the offended application or Windows. By contrast, Windows XP Professional features a protected memory model that runs each application in its own memory space. If an application crashes, Windows XP Professional can close that application without affecting other applications that are running, Windows XP Professional itself seldom crashes when running compatible software on compatible hardware.

**Security**

Windows XP Professional includes a large number of security features that Windows 9x versions don’t have. For example, Windows XP Professional includes the NTFS file system, the Encrypting File System, and IP Security. Put together, Windows XP Professional’s
security features add up to a complete system that administrators can use to provide
effective security on client and server computers. By contrast, Windows 9x versions
featured a weak security model that could easily be compromised.

Management Features
Windows XP Professional includes a vast array of management features that Windows 9x
versions don’t have. Essentially, Windows XP Professional is designed to be a centrally
managed OS, whereas Windows 9x is designed as a standalone OS that can have some
management features clumsily grafted onto it.

Support for Multiple Users
Windows XP Professional includes effective support for multiple users, whereas
Windows 9x’s multiuser support was little more than skin deep. Windows XP Professional
lets you keep each user’s private files secure from any other user, whereas Windows 9x
essentially let any user access any other user’s files.

Remote Desktop
Remote Desktop allows secure remote access to a computer running Windows XP
Professional. Windows 9x’s nearest equivalent is NetMeeting’s Remote Desktop Sharing
feature, which is much less powerful and secure.

Offline Files
Windows XP’s Offline Files feature lets you work on files stored on network drives even
when you’re not connected to the network (for example, if you take a laptop home or
on a business trip). Windows 9x’s nearest equivalent to Offline Files is Briefcase, which
is much less capable. (Windows XP Professional includes Briefcase for any users who
still need it.)

Intended Uses of Windows XP Professional
Windows XP Professional is intended for four different uses: corporate use, roaming use,
SOHO use, and standalone use. The following subsections discuss these uses briefly.

Corporate Use
Windows XP Professional’s primary role is as the preferred client OS for Windows-
based client-server networks. Servers in these networks typically run Windows 2000
Server or Windows.NET Server. These networks use Windows domains running Active
Directory and use group policies to configure their client computers.

Because it offers strong security features, including Encrypting File System (EFS),
Windows XP Professional is good for portable computers. For example, sales reps and
traveling executives often need to encrypt their files in case their portable computers
are stolen. Even **corridor warriors**—users who carry a computer from meeting to meeting—can benefit from having encrypted files if they leave their computers lying around by mistake.

**Roaming Use**

Windows XP Professional lets users store their user profiles on a network server rather than on a standalone computer. Users can then log on to any computer attached to the network. When a **roaming** user logs on, XP copies their user profile from the server to the computer they’re using, making the user’s desktop settings and files available to them.

Roaming profiles offer benefits to both users and administrators. Users can log on from any computer available and enjoy their custom settings on it. Administrators can reduce the number of computers used on the network by not needing to provide a separate computer to each user.

**SOHO Use**

You can use Windows XP Professional in a small office or home office (SOHO) setting. Because typical **SOHO networks** are peer-to-peer networks based on a workgroup, rather than domain-based client-server networks, and because Windows XP Home Edition contains strong features for peer-to-peer networks, Windows XP Home Edition is as effective in many SOHO networks as Windows XP Professional. But if you need features that Windows XP Professional offers that Windows XP Home Edition doesn’t offer, Windows XP Professional is the better choice. For example, if you need to encrypt your files, you need Windows XP Professional rather than Windows XP Home Edition on each computer that will need to store or access encrypted files. Similarly, if you need to share a fax-modem among the computers in your workgroup, you’ll need Windows XP Professional on the computer that’s doing the sharing. (The computers with which the fax-modem is shared can run Windows XP Home Edition.)

In such situations, you may want to use Windows XP Professional on those computers that need its features and Windows XP Home Edition on those computers that can get by with a smaller feature set.

Windows XP Professional behaves differently in a workgroup than in a domain. Chapter 27 discusses the key differences for using Windows XP Professional in a workgroup setting.

**Standalone Use**

You can use Windows XP Professional on a **standalone workstation**—a workstation that’s not connected to a network. But if your computer doesn’t connect to a domain, the only reason to use Windows XP Professional on a standalone computer is if you need the security features that Windows XP Professional offers. If you don’t need these features, use Windows XP Home Edition instead.
How Windows XP Professional Differs from Windows XP Home Edition

Windows XP Professional is a superset of Windows XP Home Edition. Table 1-1 lists the major features that Windows XP Professional has that Windows XP Home Edition doesn’t have. These features break down into four categories: administration features, security features, hardware features, and software components.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration Features</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domain membership</td>
<td>A Windows XP Professional computer can be a member of a Windows 2000 Server or a Windows.NET Server domain and can be administered centrally through the domain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roaming user profiles</td>
<td>Roaming user profiles store user profile data on the server so that users can log on from any client computer and receive their desktop settings and applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Installation Services (RIS) support</td>
<td>RIS lets administrators install Windows XP Professional on a computer remotely across a domain-based Windows network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IntelliMirror support</td>
<td>IntelliMirror lets administrators install applications and updates automatically across a domain-based Windows network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group policies and local policies</td>
<td>Group policies let domain administrators configure Windows XP Professional remotely, including installing software via RIS and IntelliMirror. Local policies let you both configure a computer that’s not part of a domain and apply policy settings that can be overridden by group policy settings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Security Features</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encrypting File System (EFS)</td>
<td>EFS lets you encrypting files and folders for security.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Protocol Security (IPSec)</td>
<td>IPSec lets you secure network and internetwork connections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex permissions</td>
<td>Windows XP Professional supports file and folder permissions that you can set manually via an access control list (ACL).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1-1. Windows XP Professional Features Not Included in Windows XP Home Edition
# Chapter 1: Windows XP Professional: Features, Benefits, and Uses

## Feature Explanation

### Hardware Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symmetric multiprocessing support (SMP)</td>
<td>Windows XP Professional supports two-processor SMP computers. (Windows XP Home Edition can use only one processor on an SMP computer.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynamic disks</td>
<td>Windows XP Professional supports dynamic disks as well as basic disks. <em>Dynamic disks</em> are volumes that span two or more physical disks to create large volumes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-bit version</td>
<td>Windows XP Professional comes in a 64-bit version for the Intel Itanium processor, as well as a 32-bit version for x86 processors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Software Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet Information Services (IIS) 5</td>
<td>IIS 5 lets you set up a web server that supports up to ten concurrent connections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Desktop</td>
<td>Remote Desktop lets you control your computer remotely by using Remote Desktop Connection from any 32-bit version of Windows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax sharing</td>
<td>Windows XP Professional can share fax devices with other computers on the network, whereas Windows XP Home Edition can’t share fax devices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offline Files</td>
<td>Offline Files is a feature that creates a local copy of designated network folders so that you can still access them when your computer isn’t connected to the network. Offline files don’t work when Fast User Switching is switched on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for multiple languages</td>
<td>Windows XP Professional lets you load multiple languages at the same time, whereas Windows XP Home Edition lets you load only a single language at any given time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capability to install help files for multiple OSs</td>
<td>Windows XP Professional lets you install the help files for other OSs into Help and Support Center. This feature is useful for reference and for people who need to provide technical support.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Table 1.1. Windows XP Professional Features Not Included in Windows XP Home Edition (continued)
This mere handful of different features may not seem to indicate a huge difference between OSs that share thousands of common features. But these are major features that make a great difference in Windows XP Professional’s capabilities and greatly influence the role it plays. In particular, Windows XP Professional’s features for centralized management mean that the OS behaves in a different way when connected to a domain than it does when on a standalone computer or a computer that’s part of a workgroup.

**Summary**

This chapter discussed what Windows XP Professional is, the features and benefits it offers, and its intended uses.

The next chapter explains how to install Windows XP Professional manually.