



LINKAGES – Edition 26

Windows XP Service Pack 2 is Here

Microsoft released the long-awaited XP Service Pack 2 (XPSP2), on the 4th August 2004. XPSP2 has made several major changes to Windows XP, including changes to the security model for Internet Explorer, and enabling the inbuilt "firewall" by default.

The XPSP2 download varies from as "little" as 90MB, to as much as 260MB, and these sheer file sizes represents a significant issue for organisations with anything less than 1.5Mbps ADSL. For instance, the update for a single PC may take as long as 19 hours to download over a V.90 modem! As a likely scenario, when Microsoft flags XPSP2 as a "critical update" for Windows XP Professional, networks may be saturated for several days (or weeks) with the combined attempted downloads of the service pack to individual PCs on the council LAN.

Therefore, the LCC Program is pleased to announce the first active deployment of Outbound File Distribution System (OFDS), which has been used to deliver XPSP2 onto each LCC Gateway. To install XP Service Pack 2, you can now simply download the file from the /files area of your local LCC Gateway; the 278,927,592 Bytes should take approximately 1 minute to transfer over the 100Mbps LAN, which is a dramatic improvement over 19 hours!

Assuming that your LCC Gateway is gw.council.wa.gov.au, you can download the file "WindowsXP-KB835935-SP2-ENU.exe" from the <http://gw.council.wa.gov.au/files> cache. (This will only work from your LAN, and is not externally accessible).

Finally, a word of caution; please consult your LAN Administrator (if you have one) prior to installing XP Service Pack 2. If you administer your own PCs, then you may wish to read about some applications which might have difficulty with the improved security. Details are available at: <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?kbid=842242>

About Outbound File Distribution System (OFDS)

As the name suggests, OFDS is an extension of the existing proxy cache capabilities built into the LCC Gateways. It allows files which would normally be considered ridiculously large, to be reliably delivered

into regional areas that are relatively "bandwidth poor". Using a combination of throttled transfers via the proxy cache, and sophisticated file system synchronisation algorithms, the files can be distributed to all LCC Gateways without disrupting normal business workflow, whilst safeguarding the integrity of the transferred files.

If you have a particularly large file which you need distributed to all LCC Gateways, please send an email to helpdesk@linkingcouncils.com, with details of your request, including file size, location, and the timeframe in which you need it distributed.

If you would like more information about the LCC Program's gateway, please contact the helpdesk at: helpdesk@linkingcouncils.com.au

Upgraded websites

As part of the continuing development and upgrading of Council websites, please visit the following Councils redeveloped websites at:

Shire of Boddington – www.boddington.wa.gov.au

Shire of Chittering – www.chittering.wa.gov.au

Shire of Cuballing – www.cuballing.wa.gov.au

Shire of Dandaragan – www.dandaragan.wa.gov.au

Shire of Dowerin – www.dowerin.wa.gov.au

Shire of Murray – www.murray.wa.gov.au

Shire of Narrogin – www.narroginshire.wa.gov.au

Shire of Pingelly – www.pingelly.wa.gov.au

Shire of Victoria Plains – www.victoriaplains.wa.gov.au

Shire of Wagon – www.wagin.wa.gov.au

Shire of Wandering – www.wandering.wa.gov.au

Shire of Waroona – www.waroona.wa.gov.au

Shire of Williams – www.williams.wa.gov.au

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