

# HP Blade Workstation Solution FAQ



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Q: What is the HP Blade Workstation Solution?

A: The HP Blade Workstation Solution is a complete product offering from HP that delivers full dual-processor workstation performance and experience from a remote data center to a desktop client appliance over standard networks spanning virtually unlimited distances. For even more computing power, a user may simultaneously connect from a single client device to multiple blade workstations.

Q: Is there a distance limitation between the Blade Workstation and the client?

A: Since the remoting of the desktop session is accomplished over standard TCP/IP networking, there is no physical distance limitation. Practical limitations for interactivity depend on latency of the user's network. A rule of thumb is that network latency of >100ms results in a noticeable lag in interactivity. Latency of <50ms is generally very acceptable.

Q: What kind of graphics and video can the HP Blade Workstation Solution support?

A: The HP Blade Workstation Solution handles 2D and 3D graphics and streaming video and audio content all in real time with low bandwidth.

Q: What are the components of the HP Blade Workstation Solution?

A: There are six major components of the solution:

- HP ProLiant xw460c Blade Workstation
- HP Blade System c-Class infrastructure
- HP Blade Workstation Client
- HP Remote Graphics Software (RGS)
- HP ProLiant Essentials management software
- HP Session Allocation Manager (SAM) software

## Blade and infrastructure

Q: Why is the HP Blade Workstation branded a "ProLiant"?

A: The HP ProLiant xw460c Blade Workstation is derived from the HP ProLiant BL460c Server Blade. It takes advantage of the HP ProLiant quality and Integrated Lights Out Management infrastructure that have been proven in the most mission-critical enterprise operations.

Q: What is the difference between a blade workstation and blade server?

A: The HP Blade Workstation Solution includes an NVIDIA PCI Express 4-display graphics card, a client operating system (Microsoft® Windows® XP Blade Edition) and HP Remote Graphics Software technology, all integrated into the blade.

Q: Can HP Blade Workstations be mixed with HP ProLiant Blade Servers in the same blade infrastructure?

A: Yes. Since the HP Blade Workstation is part of the ProLiant family it can be mixed in a ProLiant Server Blade environment.

Q: I have a c-Class infrastructure for my HP Blade Servers with open slots. Can I install an HP Blade Workstations in this existing infrastructure?

A: Yes. If you already have c-Class infrastructure installed, you do not have to order it with the HP Blade Workstations. In order for an HP Blade Workstation to function the infrastructure must be in place.

Q: What is "c-Class infrastructure?"

A: Blade "infrastructure" refers to all of the items that are necessary to install and run a blade workstation or blade server. For example, this would include things like the racks, blade enclosures, power supplies and networking. c-Class refers to the specific variety and models of infrastructure that supports the HP ProLiant server and workstation blades.

Q: How much power should I budget in my data center for the blade workstations?

A: This will vary depending on configuration. You can check the power requirements using the "Power Sizer" tool at [http://h71019.www7.hp.com/ActiveAnswers/347628-0-0-225-121.html?jumpid=reg\\_R1002\\_USEN](http://h71019.www7.hp.com/ActiveAnswers/347628-0-0-225-121.html?jumpid=reg_R1002_USEN).

Q: What operating system is supported on the Blade Workstation?

A: Genuine Windows Vista® Business 32-bit with downgrade to Windows® XP Professional 32-bit SP2 Blade PC edition with 1 RDL (Remote Desktop License) custom installed, Genuine Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional x64 Edition with SP2 or Red Hat Enterprise Linux Workstation Version 5 update 2 and Version 4 update 5

Q: What is the maximum memory capacity of the HP ProLiant xw460c Blade Workstation?

A: 64 GB. Each HP ProLiant xw460c has 8 memory slots that must be filled with pairs of DIMMs. 512 MB, 1 GB, 2 GB, 4 GB and 8GB DIMMs are supported.

Q: What types of graphics adapters are available with HP ProLiant xw460c Blade Workstation?

A: There are two types of discrete graphics adapters available for use with HP xw460c. A small form factor mezzanine card that fits within the HP xw460c or a full-size, standard PCIe graphics adapter which is supported via an expansion blade module called HP Graphics Expansion Blade.

Q: What types of mezzanine graphics adapters are available with HP ProLiant xw460c Blade Workstation?

A: NVIDIA Quadro FX 770M and NVIDIA Quadro FX 3600M graphics. NVIDIA Quadro FX 770M is well suited for professional 2D graphics and supports dual-graphics cards in a single HP xw460c workstation enabling quad-display support on the access clients. It also supports Microsoft DirectX and OpenGL 3D graphics and provides hardware acceleration of mid-range class professional 3D graphics.

Q: What is HP Graphics Expansion Blade module?

A: It is an expansion blade that attaches to the HP ProLiant xw460c blade and enables use of full-size standard PCIe graphics card such as NVIDIA Quadro FX 5600.

Q: Can I upgrade my existing HP xw460c with the HP Graphics Expansion Blade module?

A: No. Since the HP Graphics Expansion Blade module physically "attaches" to the base HP xw460c blade, the product is offered as a combined unit only to ensure proper function and quality. The "combined" blade is offered in two forms: A pre-configured model (without graphics) or a configurable model.

Q: What graphics adapters are supported with the HP Graphics Expansion Blade module?

A: Currently, two graphics adapters are supported. NVIDIA Quadro FX 5600 and FX 3700 graphics adapters.

Q: Can I use mezzanine cards in HP xw460c along with HP Graphics Expansion Blade module?

A: No. The HP Graphics Expansion Blade module occupies the two mezzanine slots in the HP xw460c blade.

## Client

Q: Can I custom configure the HP Blade Workstation Client?

A: No. The HP Blade Workstation Client is available only in one SKU configuration that includes graphics support for four displays of output.

Q: What operating system is included with the HP Blade Workstation Client?

A: The operating system included with the HP Blade Workstation Client is a custom embedded OS from HP that is based on a Linux kernel. There is only enough OS functionality to support the remote functionality of the HP Blade Workstation Solution.

Q: Can I use any other clients with my HP Blade Workstation?

A: Yes. HP sells the HP Remote Graphics Software (RGS) receiver module for Microsoft® Windows® XP that may be used on any Microsoft Windows XP platform. In addition, the HP Compaq t5720 Thin Client with Microsoft Windows XP Embedded is also supported.

Q: Can I load or run Linux applications on the HP Blade Workstation Client?

A: No. The embedded OS is optimized for use with HP Remote Graphics Software and is not purposed for general use.

Q: What is different about the HP Blade Workstation Client compared to a "regular" HP Compaq dc7000 Series Business Desktop?

A: The HP Blade Workstation Client includes a 512-MB Flash Memory "Disk on Module" (DOM) in place of a standard hard drive. This DOM contains an embedded custom operating system that boots the machine and enables HP Remote Graphics Software. There are also no optical or floppy drives installed. All of the other components in the system are common with the HP Compaq dc7000 Series Business Desktop.

Q: How does the client communicate with my HP ProLiant xw460c Blade Workstation?

A: The client communicates with the HP ProLiant xw460c Blade Workstation using proprietary HP Remote Graphics Software technology that allows for high performance and low bandwidth remoting over standard TCP/IP networks.

Q: How many displays does the HP Blade Workstation Client support?

A: The client supports up to four displays.

Q: Can I get an optical device, floppy drive, or standard hard drive configured with my client?

A: No. The client definition has been set up without removable devices or hard drives to enhance security and reliability for the product.

Q: What processor, memory, and graphics configurations are included in the client?

A: The client includes an Intel Celeron D352 (3.20 GHz) processor, 512 MB of DDR2-667 memory, one NVIDIA NVS 280 PCI graphics card, and one NVIDIA NVS 285 PCIe graphics card.

## Configuration and ordering

Q: Can HP Blade Workstations be ordered Configure To Order (CTO)?

A: Yes. CTO is available in North America and Europe along with HP Factory Express service. Memory or hard drives, standard HP ProLiant options, may also be ordered and installed at the customer site with installation service HP Care Packs.

Q: Can I order my HP Blade Workstation Solution to be pre-racked in the factory?

A: Yes, factory integration services are currently available for the HP Blade Workstation Solution in North America and Europe.

Q: Can I buy just the HP Blade Workstations without clients?/Can I buy just the clients without the HP Blade Workstations?

A: The HP Blade Workstation Solution is designed to work together as a seamless solution. In order to even provide support for the solution, both the blade and the HP Compaq Blade Workstation Client must be present and connected to each other through a network. So, you may purchase just the clients only if you already have the HP Blade Workstations in-house that will be connected to these clients.

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