

HP Blade Workstation Solution FAQ



Index

Blade and infrastructure	2
Client.....	4
Configuration and ordering	6

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 or HP ProLiant xw2x220c 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: 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.

Q: What operating systems are 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^{1,2}, 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 8 GB DIMMs are supported.³

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.

Q: What is the HP ProLiant xw2x220c Blade Workstation?

A: The HP ProLiant xw2x220c Blade Workstation is a high-density mid-range workstation with two independent workstation nodes in a single half-height blade package. Each workstation node has its own processor, memory, disk drive, and mezzanine slot which can be fitted with graphics subsystem. This allows up to 32 workstations in a c7000 enclosure and 128 workstations in a standard 42U rack.

Q: How does software licensing work on HP ProLiant xw2x220c Blade Workstation?

A: A single HP xw2x220c is essentially two workstations as far as software licensing goes. If you purchase Microsoft® Windows® with it, you will be purchasing two licenses and receive two certificates of authenticity stickers on it. Any software, both HP and non-HP, will treat one HP xw2x220c Blade Workstation as two systems.

Q: How does support service work for an HP ProLiant xw2x220c Blade Workstation?

A: As previously stated, a single HP xw2x220c is essentially two individual workstations, each with its own serial #, network interface, and ID, etc. As such, all applicable services will and can be applied individually to each workstation node. However, since two nodes are in a single blade package, if one system requires service, the other node will need to be taken off-line while the service is performed.

Q: Can I mix and install both the HP ProLiant xw460c and xw2x220c Blade Workstation in the same enclosure?

A: Yes you can. However, you must take care as the HP xw2x220c network port and mezzanine slot mapping to the enclosure switch bays are different than that of the HP xw460c. Please refer to the Quick Specs for more details.

Client

Q: Can I custom configure the HP dc73 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 dc73 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 t5730 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 dc73 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 dc73 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 HP dc73 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 HP dc73 client?

A: The client includes an Intel Pentium DualCore E2160 (1.80 GHz) processor, 512 MB of DDR2-667 memory, two NVIDIA NVS 290 PCI graphics card.

Q: What is the HP gt7725 Thin Client?

A: The HP gt7725 Thin Client is a high-performance thin client, newly added to the HP specialty thin client product line. Designed with high performance in mind, the HP gt7725 Thin Client delivers greater performance and functionality in a smaller footprint than the existing HP dc73 Blade Workstation Client. The HP gt7725 Thin Client provides two dual-link DVI inputs to drive up to two 30-inch diagonal monitors with on-board graphics, plus an optional expansion module to allow an additional graphics card to drive up to four displays total with a single client.

Q: When will the HP gt7725 Thin Client be available?

A: The new HP gt7725 Thin Client is currently available to early evaluation program participating customers. General availability is expected to be first quarter 2009. Stay tuned!

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.

Q: Can I configure the two workstation nodes in HP xw2x220c differently?

A: No. Both workstation nodes will need to have identical configurations per blade.

¹ Certain Windows Vista product features require advanced or additional hardware. See www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getready/hardwarereqs.mspx and www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getready/capable.mspx for details. WindowsVista Upgrade Advisor can help you determine which features of Windows Vista will run on your computer. To download the tool, visit www.windowsvista.com/upgradeadvisor.

² Windows Vista Business disk may be included for future upgrade if desired. To qualify for this downgrade an end user must be a business (including governmental or educational institutions) and is expected to order annually at least 25 customer systems with the same custom image.

³ Maximum memory capacities assume 64-bit operating systems. Microsoft® Windows® XP (32-bit) supports 4 GB (with Microsoft 32-bit, the amount of usable memory will be dependent upon your system configuration. It may be less than 4 GB); 32-bit Linux can support up to 8 GB.

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