Turn Your PC Into a Web Server

Your Windows PC as a Web Server

- If you want other people to view your pages, you must publish them.
- To publish your work, you must save your pages on a web server.
- Your own PC can act as a web server if you install IIS or PWS.
- IIS or PWS turns your computer into a web server.
- Microsoft IIS and PWS are free web server components.

IIS - Internet Information Server

IIS is a set of Internet-based services for servers created by Microsoft for use with Microsoft Windows.   IIS comes with Windows 2000, XP, and Vista. It is also available for Windows NT.   IIS is easy to install and ideal for developing and testing web applications.   IIS includes Active Server Pages (ASP), a server-side scripting standard that can be used to create dynamic and interactive web applications.

PWS - Personal Web Server

PWS is for older Windows system like Windows 95, 98, and NT.   PWS is easy to install and can be used for developing and testing web applications including ASP.   We don't recommend running PWS for anything else than training. It is outdated and has security issues.

Windows Web Server Versions

- Windows Vista Business, Enterprise and Ultimate come with IIS 7
- Windows Vista Home Premium comes with IIS 7
- Windows Vista Home Edition does not support PWS or IIS
- Windows XP Professional comes with IIS 5.1
- Windows XP Home Edition does not support IIS or PWS
- Windows 2000 Professional comes with IIS 5.0
- Windows NT Professional comes with IIS 3 and also supports IIS 4
- Windows NT Workstation supports PWS and IIS 3
- Windows ME does not support PWS or IIS
- Windows 98 comes with PWS
- Windows 95 supports PWS

How to Install IIS on Windows Vista

Follow these steps to install IIS on Windows Vista:

1. Open the Control Panel from the Start menu
2. Double-click Programs and Features
3. Click "Turn Windows features on or off" (a link to the left)
4. Select the check box for Internet Information Services (IIS), and click OK

After you have installed IIS, make sure you install all patches for bugs and security problems. (Run Windows Update).

How to Install IIS on Windows XP and Windows 2000

Follow these steps to install IIS on Windows XP, and Windows 2000:

1. On the Start menu, click Settings and select Control Panel
2. Double-click Add or Remove Programs
3. Click Add/Remove Windows Components
4. Click Internet Information Services (IIS)
5. Click Details

6. Select the check box for World Wide Web Service, and click OK
7. In Windows Component selection, click Next to install IIS

After you have installed IIS, make sure you install all patches for bugs and security problems. (Run Windows Update).

Test Your Web

After you have installed IIS or PWS follow these steps:

1. Look for a new folder called Inetpub on your hard drive
2. Open the Inetpub folder, and find a folder named wwwroot
3. Create a new folder, like "MyWeb", under wwwroot
4. Write some ASP code and save the file as "test1.asp" in the new folder
5. Make sure your Web server is running (see below)
6. Open your browser and type "http://localhost/MyWeb/test1.asp", to view your first web page

Note: Look for the IIS (or PWS) symbol in your start menu or task bar. The program has functions for starting and stopping the web server, disable and enable ASP, and much more.