Filename: microsoft-ms101-4-1-1-plan-for-windows-as-a-service
ShowName: Microsoft 365 Mobility and Security
SubTitle: Exam MS-101
Topic: Plan Windows 10 Deployment
EpisodeName: Plan for Windows as a Service (WaaS)
Description: Adam and Wes discuss how to plan for Windows as a Service (WaaS).

Plan for Windows as a Service (WaaS)

Implement Modern Device Services (30-35%)

Plan Windows 10 Deployment
• Plan for Windows as a Service (WaaS)
• Plan the Appropriate Windows 10 Enterprise Deployment Method
• Analyze Upgrade Readiness for Windows 10
• Evaluate & Deploy Additional Windows 10 Enterprise Security Features

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Plan for Windows as a Service (WaaS)

Some new terms have been introduced as part of Windows as a service:

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• Feature updates - released twice per year, around March and September. As
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the name suggests, these will add new features to Windows 10, delivered in
bite-sized chunks compared to the previous practice of Windows releases every
3-5 years.

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• Quality updates - deliver both security and non-security fixes. They are
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typically released on the second Tuesday of each month, though they can be
released at any time. Quality updates include security updates, critical
updates, servicing stack updates, and driver updates. Quality updates are
cumulative, so installing the latest quality update is sufficient to get all
the available fixes for a specific Windows 10 feature update.

The "servicing stack" is the code that installs other updates, so they are
important to keep current.

What is a servicing stack update?

Servicing stack updates provide fixes to the servicing stack, the component that
installs Windows updates. Additionally, it contains the "component-based
servicing stack" (CBS), which is a key underlying component for several elements
of Windows deployment, such as DISM, SFC, changing Windows features or roles,
and repairing components. The CBS is a small component that typically does not
have updates released every month.

Why should servicing stack updates be installed and kept up to date?

If you do not install the latest servicing stack update, there's a risk that
your device can not be updated with the latest Microsoft security fixes.

When are they released?

Servicing stack update are released depending on new issues or vulnerabilities.
In rare occasions a servicing stack update may need to be released on demand to
address an issue impacting systems installing the monthly security update.
Starting in November 2018 new servicing stack updates are classified as
"Security" with a severity rating of "Critical."

What's the difference between a servicing stack update and a cumulative update?

Both Windows 10 and Windows Server use the cumulative update mechanism, in which
many fixes to improve the quality and security of Windows are packaged into a
single update. Each cumulative update includes the changes and fixes from all
previous updates.

Servicing stack updates must ship separately from the cumulative updates because
they modify the component that installs Windows updates. The servicing stack is
released separately because the servicing stack itself requires an update.

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• Insider Preview builds - made available during the development of the
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features that will be shipped in the next feature update, enabling
organizations to validate new features as well as compatibility with existing
apps and infrastructure, providing feedback to Microsoft on any issues
encountered.

There are three deployment rings available in the Insider Program:

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a. Fast Ring (weekly) - skydiving with no parachute
b. Slow Ring  (monthly) - tandem jump with backup parachute
c. Release Preview Ring (semi-annual/annual) - never leave the ground


• Servicing channels - allow organizations to choose when to deploy new
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features.

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    • The Semi-Annual Channel receives feature updates twice per year.
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Now, there are actually 2 distinct deployment rings that make up the
Semi-Annual Channel:

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    a. Semi-Annual Channel (Targeted) - newly released updates hit this ring
FIRST, and can be deployed OR deferred for up to 365 days

    b. Semi-Annual Channel - After about 4 months or so, updates make their way
into this ring, and can be deferred for up to 365 days


    • The Long Term Servicing Channel, which is designed to be used only for
specialized devices (which typically do not run Office) such as those that
control medical equipment or ATM machines, receives new feature releases
every two to three years.


• Deployment rings are groups of devices used to initially pilot, and then to
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broadly deploy, each feature update in an organization.

URLs to know:

Windows Insider Program for Business getting started:
https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-insider/at-work-pro/wip-4-biz-get-started

Register for the Windows Insider Program for Business:
https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-insider/at-work-pro/wip-4-biz-register

Install Windows 10 Insider Preview Builds:
https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-insider/at-work-pro/wip-4-biz-install

Manage Windows 10 Insider Preview Builds:
https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-insider/at-work-pro/wip-4-biz-manage

Windows Insider Program for Business Frequently Asked Questions:
https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-insider/at-work-pro/wip-4-biz-FAQ