

More and more IT professionals, developers and home users are discovering the benefits of connecting, interacting and communicating with fellow users in technical community forums.

Microsoft Technical Communities provide you with the chance to interact with Microsoft employees and experts, as well as your peers, to share knowledge and news about Microsoft products and related technologies.

Support through Microsoft Technical Communities

www.microsoft.com/communities

Microsoft Technical Communities provide a variety of ways to get answers to questions, solutions to problems, and to share your own expertise via Community Web sites, Newsgroups, Technical Chats, Webcasts, User Groups and Blogs.

Community Web Sites

The www.microsoft.com/communities site links visitors to a global network of community Web sites that focus on product and technology information. The resources available allow interactive communication between developers, IT professionals, product experts, business and IT decision-makers, and a growing number of home users.

Find a Community

www.microsoft.com/communities/find/default.mspix

Technical Chats

Live technical chats provide an opportunity to ask Microsoft product groups, executives and other experts questions. Chats are hosted in various time zones and languages, which give you the opportunity to interact with peers from around the world. If you can't make a live chat session, the chat transcripts are made available shortly after the session so you won't miss out on the information provided.

Find a Chat

www.microsoft.com/communities/chats/default.mspix

MSDN® chats for Developers

msdn.microsoft.com/

TechNet chats for IT Professionals

www.microsoft.com/technet/

Microsoft Public Newsgroups

Ask and answer technical questions about Microsoft products and technologies in the Microsoft Newsgroups. There is a collection of over 2,500 Public Newsgroups suitable for ALL users.

Microsoft Newsgroups enjoy a reputation as a place where experiences can be shared productively. This high standing is not just based on the technical expertise of members but also on their well-known sense of community. You'll find many Microsoft Most Valuable Professionals (MVPs) actively answering questions in Microsoft newsgroups.

Find a Newsgroup

www.microsoft.com/communities/newsgroups/default.mspix

Webcasts

Attend a live or on-demand Webcast from the convenience of your PC and experience technical and thought-provoking business perspectives from a host of Microsoft and industry experts. Microsoft Webcasts are 30 to 90 minutes in length and feature interactive presentations, product demonstrations, and question-and-answer sessions. New live Webcasts are offered every day, and all content is available on-demand.

Find a webcast

www.microsoft.com/communities/webcasts/default.mspix

User Groups

User Groups are independently run volunteer groups that meet on a regular basis to discuss and share information on a variety of technology topics surrounding Microsoft products and technologies.

Joining a User Group is an excellent, inexpensive way to meet with your peers and to educate yourself to get more out of the latest Microsoft platforms, products, technologies and resources.

By taking part in a User Group, you will receive technical education, content and offerings covering Microsoft products and technologies, in an environment emphasising peer support and learning.

Find a User Group

www.microsoft.com/mindshare/find/

Learn more about User Groups

www.microsoft.com/communities/usergroups/default.aspx

Microsoft Community Blogs

Blogs are Web pages which are updated frequently, written from the point of view of an individual, in an informal tone, and usually expose an RSS feed for syndication. Use the directory to find blogs about Microsoft technologies written by Microsoft employees. These blogs will provide insights and opinions about using Microsoft technologies and software.

Find a Blog

www.microsoft.com/communities/blogs/

Other Blog resources

www.spaces.msn.com, www.blogger.com

Through participating in newsgroups, blogging and attending/speaking at events, I have increased my depth of knowledge and made some great friends.

Angus Logan, Office MCMS 2002 MVP, Brisbane, Australia

What MVPs say

"Being an MVP has two-way benefits. It's very rare for me to spend a session answering questions in the Newsgroups and not learn something new as I research the solution to someone else's problem."

Graham Mandeno, Access MVP 9 years, Auckland

"I like to help others as I'd like them to help me. Newsgroups are my primary source of quick information. I learn heaps from reading about and helping with peoples problems."

Dennis Bareis, Windows SDK MVP 1 year, Melbourne

"The MVP program gives me an excellent opportunity to interact with end users and learn about real life issues that can impact on Windows Mobile deployment and integration work we conduct in our projects at sohosolutions.co.nz"

Mauricio Freitas, Windows Mobile, Wellington

"I already had implemented [Microsoft] Active Directory® in my organisation, but I wanted to expand my knowledge so I started to read the Active Directory newsgroup. I responded to a few questions, helping people and all of a sudden I was informed that I was being awarded an MVP. It was a great surprise! I didn't really know what it meant at the time, and now that I do I'm proud to have been awarded it."

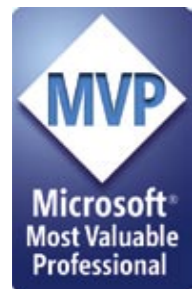
Cliff Pratt, Directory Services MVP 2 years

"I wanted to make a difference and started helping with large community events. I wanted to connect people with technology. This led to one project managing an I.T. network to support 14,000 people in scrub land, another helping 2,000 people and even more projects helping disabled people achieve their goals. Microsoft awarded me as an MVP! This has immensely enabled me and my projects".

Michael Jenkin, The Microsoft Windows Server Systems - Small Business Server MVP 2 years, Adelaide

The Microsoft Most Valuable Professional (MVP) Program

www.microsoft.com/mvp



The Microsoft Most Valuable Professional (MVP) Program recognises and thanks outstanding members of technical communities for their community participation and willingness to help others. The program celebrates the most active community members from around the world who provide invaluable online and offline expertise that enriches the

community experience and makes a difference in technical communities featuring Microsoft products.

When participating in a community, whether you post questions in a Newsgroup, attend a user group or view a Webcast or community chat, you are very likely to find currently awarded MVPs in the forum.

Who are MVPs?

MVPs are credible and accessible technology experts from around the world who inspire others to learn and grow through active technical community participation.

MVPs are not Microsoft employees. MVPs represent an independent opinion and have chosen to share their knowledge with others in community forums. As of June 2005, there were just over 2,800 MVPs worldwide.

Learn more about the MVP Program

www.microsoft.com/mvp

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How does Microsoft decide who is recognised as an MVP?

A: Microsoft staff and MVPs participating in community forums usually identify other outstanding individuals. They then inform the MVP Program managers about a candidate they'd like to nominate.

The candidate's community participation history is reviewed for technical accuracy and consistently high quality community contributions over the previous 12 month period. If the candidate is successful, the Microsoft Product Group and the Microsoft MVP and Communities Program agree to issue an MVP award which is for recognition of outstanding and credible community participation for the past twelve months in a focused area of Microsoft technology.

Q: Are MVPs people who work in the IT industry?

A: Not always. MVPs come from many varied backgrounds including farming, biology, government, secretarial, fire brigades, consulting, retirees, students, and the IT industry. The MVP award is not for what you do in your job – it is in recognition of your contribution to technical communities, outside of your job, in your own time.

Q: Is MVP (Most Valuable Professional) a certification like MCP (Microsoft Certified Professional)?

A: No. You can not complete an examination or course to become an MVP, and you do not complete an application form to "join". The MVP title is an AWARD title (current for 12 months at a time) for community contributions by an individual for an extended period of time and with a high degree of technical quality.

MVP Community Resources

A world of resources and support, at your fingertips

What	Where
Where to Start	www.microsoft.com/mvp www.microsoft.com/communities Links are provided as a guide and were accurate at the time of printing. Community and MVP resources are extensive and only a portion of available resources are represented.
Find a Community	www.microsoft.com/communities/find/default.aspx
Find a Newsgroup	www.microsoft.com/communities/newsgroups/default.aspx
All Microsoft Products	www.microsoft.com/communities/newsgroups/en-us/default.aspx
Microsoft Product Support	www.support.microsoft.com/newsgroups/
Find a Chat	www.microsoft.com/communities/chats/default.aspx
Developers	www.msdn.microsoft.com/
IT Professionals	www.microsoft.com/technet/
Webcasts	www.microsoft.com/communities/webcasts/default.aspx
Blogs	www.microsoft.com/communities/blogs/
Other Blog sites	www.spaces.msn.com/ www.blogger.com
Community Web sites by MVPs	www.mvps.org/
Non-Microsoft	www.helpware.net/mvpanz/ www.word.mvps.org/ www.shanakelly.com/ www.ozcableguy.com/ www.susserver.com/ www.geekzone.co.nz/ www.dennisbareis.id.au/index.htm
Find a User Group	www.microsoft.com/mindshare/find/
Learn more about User Groups	www.microsoft.com/communities/usergroups/default.aspx
Local User Groups	Australia:
Non-Microsoft	www.sqlserver.org.au/ www.qssug.org/ www.sbsusers.net/meetings.htm www.sdnug.org/ www.ssw.com.au/ssw/NETUG/default.aspx
	NZ
	www.dot.net.nz/ www.wmug.co.nz/

For more information

For more information about Microsoft Technical Communities, please visit www.microsoft.com/communities

For information about Microsoft Most Valuable Professionals, visit www.microsoft.com/mvp

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