

Microsoft Great Plains 8.0 Minimum, Midpoint, High-End Recommendations



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Included are compatible hardware recommendations based on usage.

Overview:

This document contains hardware requirements and recommendations supported by Microsoft® Business Solutions. The following are the minimum requirements, midpoint recommendations, and high-end recommendations for client/server installations of Microsoft Great Plains Professional 8.0 on Microsoft SQL Server and Microsoft Great Plains Standard 8.0 on Microsoft SQL Server or MSDE 2000. The recommendations are based on experience with many different installations and should be used as a reference in determining hardware needs for each individual configuration. Users may need to increase these recommendations due to environmental factors to achieve individual performance expectations.

On this page:

- ▶ [Client Requirements](#)
- ▶ [Small Business Server Recommendations](#)
- ▶ [Minimum Server Requirements](#)
- ▶ [Midpoint Server Recommendations](#)
- ▶ [High-end Server Recommendations](#)

Client Requirements:

Item	Requirements	Notes
Operating System	Microsoft Windows XP Professional SP 1a or SP 2, Microsoft Windows XP Tablet PC Edition, Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional SP 3 or SP 4, Microsoft Windows 2000 Server SP 3 or SP 4, or Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition	The Microsoft Windows XP Tablet PC Edition is only supported on a client connected to the Local Area Network. The wireless components of Microsoft Windows XP Tablet PC Edition are not supported or recommended.
Processor	Pentium III 350 Mhz (or equivalent)	Clients with heavy processing use Pentium III 500 Mhz or higher
Hard Disk Space	210 MB	An additional 35 MB of hard disk space is required if using Human Resources. An additional 50 MB of hard disk space is required if using Manufacturing.
RAM	128MB	Clients with heavy processing use 256 MB RAM or higher. Set virtual memory size to at least the amount of RAM on the workstation plus 11 MB.
Video	SVGA (800x600) with 16-bit video driver	
CD-ROM	Optional	
Network Card	100 Base T or 1000 Base T Ethernet	

[Top](#)

Small Business Server Recommendations

Microsoft Windows 2000 Small Business Server SP 3 or SP 4
Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2003 Premium Edition

Use the following guidelines if you:

- ▶ Use only Financial Series modules
 - ▶ Have between 0-10 concurrent users
 - ▶ Use Report Writer or Crystal Reports
 - ▶ Process fewer than 500 transactions per day
 - ▶ Import very little data
 - ▶ Recommend a dedicated Microsoft SQL Server or MSDE 2000 for the Great Plains databases.
 - ▶ Recommend minimum server requirements (see below) plus server requirements required by Small Business Server.
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[Top](#)

Minimum Server Requirements:

Use the following guidelines if you:

- ▶ Use only Financial Series modules
- ▶ Have between 0-15 concurrent users for Microsoft SQL Server or 0-10 concurrent users for MSDE 2000
- ▶ Use Report Writer, Crystal Reports or FRx
- ▶ Process fewer than 500 transactions per day
- ▶ Import very little data
- ▶ Dedicated server with Microsoft SQL Server only
- ▶ Recommend a dedicated server with MSDE 2000 only

Database Requirements

Microsoft SQL Server 7.0 SP 4
Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Standard Edition SP 3a
Microsoft SQL Server 2000 (64-bit)
MSDE 2000 SP 3a

Item	Requirements	Notes
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 2000 Server SP 3 or SP 4, Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition	MSDE 2000 can be installed on a non-server operating system, however it is recommended to install on a server operating system. The only non-server operating systems supported are Microsoft Windows XP Professional SP 1a or SP 2 and Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional SP 3 or SP 4. Refer to # 5 in the Additional Notes section below.
Processors	Dual Pentium III 800 Mhz (or equivalent single processor)	Make sure processors can be upgraded
	Minimum:	
Disk Configuration	RAID 5 for operating system, applications and SQL database log and data files	Having more disks available will improve Microsoft SQL Server performance
Microsoft SQL	Recommended:	Recommend using a dual-channel fast and wide SCSI-2

Server only	RAID 1 for operating system and applications	controller.
	RAID 5 for SQL database log and data files	
RAM	512 MB minimum or greater	Set virtual memory size to at least the amount of RAM on the computer plus 11MB. Be sure to expand to 1G if necessary.
CD-ROM	Yes	Required
Network Card	32-bit, 10/100 MB Ethernet Full Duplex	

[Top](#)

Midpoint Server Recommendations:

Use these guidelines if you:

- ▶ Use Financials Series modules
- ▶ Use Distribution Series modules moderately
- ▶ Use Field Service Series modules
- ▶ Use Manufacturing Series modules moderately
- ▶ Have between 10 and 30 concurrent users
- ▶ Use Terminal Server
- ▶ Use Report Writer, Crystal Reports or FRx
- ▶ Perform some online analytical processing (OLAP) cube generation
- ▶ Using an import routine/eConnect/Integration Manager
- ▶ Process between 500 and 2000 transactions per day
-Originating in Sales (SOP and/or RM), Payables or General Ledger
- ▶ Dedicated server with Microsoft SQL Server only

Database Requirements

Microsoft SQL Server 7.0 SP4

Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Standard or Enterprise Edition SP 3a

Microsoft SQL Server 2000 (64-bit)

Item	Recommendations	Notes
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 2000 Server SP 3 or SP 4, Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server SP 3 or SP 4, Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition or Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition	
Processors	Dual Xeon 700 Mhz (or equivalent single processor)	Make sure processors can upgrade to Quad processors
Disk Configuration	RAID 1 for operating system and applications (2 disks) RAID 1 for SQL database log files (2 disks) RAID 5 for SQL data files (4 disk minimum) RAID 1 for TempDB (2 disks) - optional, but recommended RAID 0 for SQL backups (full and log) (2 disks)	Having more disks available will improve Microsoft SQL Server performance To attain 2000 transactions a day, you may need to increase the number of disks in your RAID 5 disk volume Recommend separate disks for database backups and transaction log dumps

Recommend use of Ultra SCSI 3 or Fiber Controller

		If more than 2 GB of RAM is available, enable the 3GB and/or PAE switch in the boot.ini if Windows 2000 Advanced Server, Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition or Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition and SQL Server Enterprise Edition are installed. Refer to Article Q283037 for more information. Be sure to expand to 4GB if necessary.
RAM	2G or more	
CD-ROM	Yes	Required
Network Card	Dual 100-bit 10/100 MB Ethernet or Fiber PCI NIC	Ensure switch is capable of handling network traffic

[Top](#)

High-End Server Recommendations:

Use these guidelines if you:

- ▶ Use Financials Series and Distribution Series modules extensively
- ▶ Use Field Service Series and Manufacturing Series modules extensively
- ▶ Have 25 or more concurrent users
- ▶ Use Terminal Server/Metaframe
- ▶ Use Report Writer, Crystal Reports or FRx extensively
- ▶ Use an import routine extensively - eConnect
- ▶ Process 2000/5000 transactions per day
 - Originating in Sales (SOP and/or RM), Payables or General Ledger
- ▶ Perform online analytical processing (OLAP) cube generation (to different machine)
- ▶ Dedicated server with Microsoft SQL Server only

Microsoft SQL Server Enterprise Recommendations

Microsoft SQL Server 2000 SP 3a

Microsoft SQL Server 2000 (64-bit)

Item	Requirements	Notes
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server SP 3 or SP 4, Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition or Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition	
Processors	Quad Xeon 700 Mhz (or equivalent single or dual processor)	Make sure processors can be upgraded to 8 processors or higher
Disk Configuration	RAID 1 for operating system and applications (2 disks) RAID 1 for SQL database log files (4 disks) RAID 1 for TempDB (4 disks) RAID 0 for SQL backups (full and log) (2 disks) RAID 5 or RAID 10 for data files (8 disks or more)	Having more disks available will improve Microsoft SQL Server performance To attain 5000 transactions a day, you may need to increase the number of disks in your RAID 5 or RAID 10 disk volume Recommend separate disks for database backups and transaction log dumps

Recommend use of Ultra SCSI 3 or Fiber Controller

RAM	4G or more	Enable the 3GB and/or PAE switch in the boot.ini if Windows 2000 Advanced Server, Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition or Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition and SQL Server Enterprise Edition are installed. Refer to Article Q283037 for more information. Be sure expand to 8G if necessary.
CD-ROM	Yes	Required
Network Card	Single 1000 Base T Ethernet or Fiber PCI NIC	Ensure switch is capable of handling network traffic

Additional Notes:

1. This document represents configurations tested by Microsoft Business Solutions and supported by Technical Support. Use of technologies not specified in this document is not recommended and will not be supported. Testing is ongoing, and as newer technologies become supported, they will be added to this document.
2. Office 2000, Office XP and Office 2003 have been tested and are supported with Great Plains 8.0.
3. Microsoft Business Solutions will support Great Plains 8.0 on Windows Server 2003 with Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Service Pack 3a or MSDE 2000 SP 3a. Microsoft SQL Server 7.0 is not supported on Windows Server 2003.
4. Intel Pentium processors are used in platform testing, however, the compatibility is based on the speed of the processor not the type of processor.
5. If running MSDE 2000 on Windows XP that has Service Pack 2, refer to the following KB article. You may need to enable port 1433 for TCP/IP in the Windows Firewall to ensure the incoming ODBC requests are accepted.

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;842242&Product=winxp>

[Top](#)