

The topic for this meeting was the implementation of Windows 8 in the workplace. Jarrod Roark, a consultant at Bennett Adelson, made a presentation to the group. Jarrod has consulting, implementation, and project management experiences for Identity, Security Collaboration and System Management Products in environments ranging in size from 5,000 to over 100,000 users across a diverse number of organizations and industries. Recognized as an industry thought leader, Jarrod has published numerous white papers and spoken at such events as The Experts Conference, ILTA Conference and currently heads up the Cleveland System Center User Group.

What transformational trends led to Windows 8?

Data is becoming extremely important in the business place. It is necessary to have data available almost immediately and it is a very important commodity for enterprises. It is necessary to have the data at our fingertips no matter where we are. Cloud computing is becoming even more important in industries. Most companies are subscribing to more than one cloud services. This comes from a focus on what companies do best rather than trying to do it all.

Most people in the industry are also using multiple devices at a time. Social computing is becoming much more popular both in general and in the business industry. Yammer, LinkedIn and other social networking tools are more popular in the work place and new tools are being created every day. As organizations get larger being able to know who the experts are in certain areas is extremely important.

Windows 8 aimed to be a better user interface modeled after those of the iPad and cell phone interfaces that most consumers are using today.

There are more technologically savvy people in the workforce now than before. There is now a multi-generational workforce and it is important to make them the most efficient they can be. The millennial workforce is use to technology and social computing. They expect these things to be available to them no matter where they are. They want to

work from anywhere at any time and many want to use their own devices to complete that work.

What is Windows 8?

Windows 8 can be boiled down to four things: availability, scalability, simplicity and cost effectiveness.

Windows 8 is meant to work best with Windows Server 2012. Some of the features that come with Windows Server 2012 are embedded in Windows 8 direct access. This is basically an always-on VPN. There is also app store model for Windows 8. It enhances security and provides many other benefits.

Windows To Go is a technology that allows a person to download a Windows 8 client to a thumb drive and boot up off of that. This is great for developers or a kiosk. The idea behind Windows 8 was to provide a simplistic “single” interface for users across all devices.

There are four versions of Windows 8: Core, Pro, Enterprise, and RT. RT is what would be deployed on an arm platform. Enterprise is it what you would want in an organization because it gives you the ability to have Windows To Go and gives you direct access to client. Enterprise is only available via volume licensing. BitLocker Management is also available with Enterprise. Pro supports the standard business set but does not allow for the user to take advantage of the next level technologies such as BitLocker Manager and Direct Access Clients.

How to roll out Windows 8?

The best way to roll out Windows 8 is to do it slowly. It should first be tested by the IT departments and then sent to departments that will use it most effectively. It should also be used first in more technologically savvy companies and those that are already allowing employees to bring their own devices or who are pushing newer devices, such as tablets and touch laptop devices.

(Prepared by Brittany Michael and Prof. B. S. Vijayaraman)