

ATTENTION: MKS Toolkit version 9.2p3 is required to run Windows Release 7

Microsoft has released a public preview of the Windows 7 RC (i.e., release candidate). General release is expected to be around the Fall 2009 timeframe. In many ways Windows 7 is everything Windows Vista was not, and Microsoft expects a much wider adoption of Windows 7. In our view, version 7 is similar to Vista SP3 rather than a new OS but we agree with Microsoft that version 7 will find much wider acceptance.

As is our stated policy, MKS is committed to a new version of Toolkit within 30 days of release of a new version of the operating system. However, due to Microsoft's unprecedented pre-release of version 7 RC to anyone who wants to test it for free, we have accelerated our release so that our customers can test their Toolkit applications with this new release prior to general availability.

Our initial version 7-compatible release will be available shortly as a patch release. Unfortunately, Microsoft broke compatibility with all prior versions of MKS Toolkit and **YOU WILL ABSOLUTELY NEED TO UPDATE MKS TOOLKIT IN ORDER TO USE MKS TOOLKIT ON WINDOWS 7**. MKS Toolkit 9.2p2 and earlier will not work correctly under Windows 7. In order to use Windows 7 (Release Candidate), MKS Toolkit 9.2p3 is needed. Our official version 7-compatible release will be needed when Windows 7 is generally available.

Here are the key things that will no longer work if you are currently using an older version of MKS Toolkit:

- 1) Shell – has fork() problems due to an API regression in the OS. This regression has been reported to Microsoft and at some point they will fix it. It was reported to them in February – but only last week did they get around to looking at it and by then it was “too late to fix in this version”.
- 2) Su - fails on x64 machines because of an API regression with GetProcAddress() on x64 machines with file system redirection disabled. This has been reported to Microsoft and we were told it was a “known issue”.
- 3) Sshd, rlogind, xterm - Pseudo-tty support is broken – this was our bug.
- 4) Installation failed to set ROOTDIR to a short path. This breaks start menu items and many scripts. This is due to a new concept of disabling short name generation on a per disk basis.

There are two ways in which a person can get Windows 7 on their machine:

- 1) Upgrading XP or Vista – in which case an existing version of MKS Toolkit on that machine will stop working – and the patch must be applied
- 2) Installing fresh on a new machine – in which case
 - a. Ensure you have a valid license
 - b. Download a CD image for 9.2p3 and install a fresh copy of MKS Toolkit from that CD.

Windows 7 also has an XP compatibility mode. This is nothing other than Microsoft Virtual PC (Virtual Machine) with XP preinstalled (and the license for this OS is free with Windows 7), a seamless windows mode (XP windows show up like Windows 7 Windows instead of in their own VM desktop) and some simple start menu integration so that applications in the VM appear to be more tightly integrated into Windows 7. Like all Virtual Machines, MKS requires at least two licenses if the customer wishes to install on both the host and the VM.