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## [Microsoft: Use Windows Server 2008 RTM for Free, Please](#)

*And win a HP MediaSmart Server with Windows Home Server*

Microsoft is exhibiting the generous side of its nature with free Windows Server 2008 offerings. Released to manufacturing on February 4, 2008, but labeled Service Pack due to the client-server platform synchronization with Windows Vista SP1, Microsoft is offering free trial versions of Windows Server 2008 for download. And in order to further stimulate users to test-drive Windows Server 2008, the Redmond company is also prepared to offer incentives, just to sweeten the deal. In fact, testers of [Windows Server 2008 RTM/SP1](#) can get their hands on a HP MediaSmart Server running Windows Home Server. "Evalu'08 and you could win! Download a free trial or take a Virtual Lab of Windows Server 2008, Visual Studio 2008, SQL Server 2008 or other Microsoft Server products and be entered for a chance to win an HP MediaSmart Server powered by Windows Home Server software. To sign up and to view the official rules, visit [Evalu'08](#)," revealed [Justin Graham](#), Account Technology Specialist at Microsoft, adding that Windows Server 2008's initial trial period of 60 days can be extended via the re-arm function, up to a total of 240 days. Unfortunately, the campaign is open exclusively to U.S. residents that have what Microsoft referred to as an IT or software development role. The sweepstakes is planned to end on June 30, 2008, and participants need not purchase the latest Windows server operating system. They can just as well download a trial edition or take a Virtual Lab tour of the operating system. "The Windows Server 2008 test drive allows you to try the latest release from Microsoft instantly. By simply logging onto our test-drive environment using your web browser, you will be able to experience Windows Server 2008 first hand through a collection of short virtual labs and video walk-throughs," Graham added. Windows Server 2008 is available for download [here](#).