Remote manage both wired and wireless PCs from the same IT console to increase security and simplify system management

A new generation of notebook and desktop PCs provides proactive security, enhanced maintenance, and improved remote management. Notebook PCs with Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel® vPro™ processor technology deliver down-the-wire security and manageability capabilities – even if hardware (such as a hard drive) has failed, the operating system is unresponsive, software agents are disabled, a desktop PC’s power is off, or a notebook’s management agents have been disabled. Desktop PCs also include support for virtual appliances that allows IT managers to isolate and protect critical security and management applications in a tamper-resistant environment. In addition, the new generation of notebook and desktop systems delivers significantly improved performance for compute-intensive tasks – all in a power-efficient package that is Microsoft Windows Vista® ready.
White Paper  Intel® Centrino® Pro and Intel® vPro™ Processor Technology

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Executive Summary

Notebook PCs with Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel® vPro™ processor technology deliver new, built-in security and remote management capabilities to meet critical business challenges. IT administrators can now more quickly identify and contain more security threats, take more accurate asset and hardware/software inventories remotely, resolve more software and OS problems faster and without leaving the service center, and accurately diagnose hardware problems down-the-wire.

The new security and management capabilities of these wired and wireless systems are based in hardware, not software. The advantage for IT is that the capabilities are available to authorized IT technicians down-the-wire, even for PCs that have traditionally been difficult to manage or unavailable to the IT management console. IT technicians can now secure and manage wireless notebooks across a variety of wireless networks – even if the OS is unresponsive or software agents are missing; and secure and manage wired notebook and desktop PCs, even if power is off, hardware has failed, or the OS is unresponsive. The result is increased compliance, more accurate inventories, fewer service depot visits and deskside visits, and less interruption to business.

The new generation of Intel-based notebook and desktop PCs deliver significantly improved performance for compute-intensive applications and multitasking – all in a power-efficient package that is Microsoft Windows Vista® ready. Desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology also include additional, hardware-based capabilities that give IT administrators the option of a lighter-weight form of virtualization for mainstream business. IT technicians can now run critical security applications in a simplified, self-contained, dedicated virtual partition – or “virtual appliance” – even while users are working on their own compute-intensive tasks in the user OS.

IT can now spend less time on routine tasks, and can focus resources where they are most needed for better manageability and security of both notebook and desktop PCs.
Intel® Centrino® Pro and Intel® vPro™ processor technology

A new generation of notebook and desktop PCs delivers down-the-wire proactive security, enhanced maintenance, and remote management.

Today's IT challenges
Information technology (IT) managers have a critical need for capabilities that make it easier to secure and manage notebook and desktop PCs. Key IT challenges today include:

- A dramatic increase in malicious attacks on PCs.
- A critical need to reduce user downtime caused by malicious attacks; problem PCs; maintenance; security updates; application upgrades; and other IT tasks.
- Financial and legal pressure to accurately inventory assets.
- Escalating demand for IT services that strain IT budgets.

Software-only management and security solutions for PCs have been unable to work around a fundamental limitation: they cannot secure or manage a PC that is powered off or whose operating system (OS) is unresponsive. With today's need for increased security and for establishing well-managed environments, the cost of managing PCs has become a significant percentage of the total cost of ownership of technology. A critical capability that would help IT do more with the resources they have is the ability to remotely manage and effectively secure both notebook and desktop PCs regardless of wired or wireless state, power state, or the health of the OS.

Improve security and simplify remote management
Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology\(^1\) are designed to address the top IT challenges in security and manageability. This new generation of notebook and desktop PCs delivers tamper-resistant security and management capabilities that are based in hardware, not software. The advantage of the hardware-based capabilities over traditional software-based solutions is in allowing remote access to PCs that have traditionally been unavailable to the management console.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Intel® vPro™ processor technology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor T, L, and U 7000(\Delta) sequence</td>
<td>Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor E6000(\Delta) sequence</td>
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<td>Mobile Intel® 965 Express Chipset with ICH8M-enhanced</td>
<td>Intel® Q965 Express Chipset with ICH8DO</td>
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<td>Intel® Active Management Technology(^1) (Intel® AMT)</td>
<td>Intel® Active Management Technology(^1) (Intel® AMT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intel® Virtualization Technology(^2) (Intel® VT)</td>
<td>Intel® Virtualization Technology(^2) (Intel® VT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for 802.11a/b/g wireless protocols, with available support for draft n</td>
<td>Support for virtual &quot;appliance&quot; applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>64-bit enabled(^3)</td>
<td>64-bit enabled(^3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Execute Disable(^†)</td>
<td>Execute Disable(^†)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intel® Stable Image Platform Program (Intel® SIPP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windows Vista® Ready</td>
<td>Windows Vista® Ready</td>
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<td>Windows Vista® BitLocker® Ready</td>
<td>Windows Vista® BitLocker® Ready</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology deliver:

- **Hardware-based security capabilities**, to help improve compliance down-the-wire, ensure that third-party security software is available when needed, and remotely identify viruses, worms, and other threats faster and stop those threats more effectively.

- **Remote problem-resolution capabilities**, to help accurately diagnose hardware problems and troubleshoot and resolve more software and OS problems – including OS rebuilds – without leaving the service center.

- **Remote hardware and software inventory capabilities**, even if the OS is unresponsive or a system is powered off.

- **Remote asset inventory (discovery) capabilities**, to more accurately identify notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology on the network.
The new capabilities make it easier to automate more diagnostics, repair, and remediation tasks, further improving service efficiencies and freeing resources for other projects.

**Wired and wireless PCs**

Managing notebook and desktop PCs requires that technicians be aware of the state of the system. For example, before servicing a PC, a technician should know whether the system is AC-powered or battery-powered, on or off, awake or asleep. Being able to identify and change – if appropriate – the state of the PC allows the technician to identify when it is most advantageous to service a notebook or power up a desktop to perform work off-hours, when it won’t interrupt the user.

Authorized technicians can use the new security and remote management capabilities of Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology for:

- **Wired systems.** Whenever a system – notebook or desktop – is plugged into a power source (AC power) and connected to the corporate network with an Ethernet cable, the security and management capabilities of Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology are fully enabled.

These notebook and desktop PCs can be managed similarly through the standard features of your third-party management software. Even when an AC-powered, wired notebook is asleep, virtually all management capabilities are available. The capabilities for AC-powered PCs are available to authorized technicians even when PC power is off, the OS is inoperative, hardware (such as a hard drive) has failed, or software agents are missing.

- **Wireless notebooks.** Notebooks can be remotely secured and managed within the corporate network, anytime they are in an active state (“awake”). This helps make sure that IT processes use battery power only when the system is powered up and awake. Capabilities for these systems are available even if the OS is unresponsive, software agents are compromised or missing, or hardware (such as a hard drive) has failed.

- **Wireless notebooks outside the corporate network.** Some capabilities – such as agent presence checking, access to hardware/software asset information, and alerting – are available even if the wireless notebook is outside the corporate network and connected over a host OS-based virtual private network (VPN).

Figure 1, on the next page, shows the various states in which notebook and desktop PCs can be remotely managed using Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology. Refer to the discussion, Managing the wireless notebook, on page 8, for a list of capabilities available in wired and wireless states, active and sleep states, and various power states.
Built-in capabilities to improve compliance, increase automation, and reduce service calls

Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology are designed to help IT administrators reach more PCs remotely, automate more tasks, perform more work from a remote, centralized location, and reduce user interruptions. Some of the security and manageability capabilities that help deliver these benefits include:

- **Remote power-up**, so IT technicians can more securely power up, power down, power cycle, or reset PCs from the management console. This allows technicians to reach more PCs remotely anytime, especially for critical tasks, such as security updates and patching.

- **Remote/redirected boot**, through integrated drive electronics redirect (IDE-R), a more powerful and secure capability than wake-on-LAN (WOL) and preexecution environment (PXE). IDE-R allows authorized IT technicians to remotely boot a PC to a clean state, or redirect the boot device for a problem PC to a clean image on local storage, on a CD at the help desk, or to an image on another remote drive.

- **Console redirection**, through serial-over-LAN (SOL), so IT technicians can guide the system through a troubleshooting session without user intervention, and without leaving the management console. Technicians now have remote keyboard and video console control of a PC outside of standard OS control, allowing them to perform tasks such as editing BIOS settings from the service center.

- **Automated, continual agent presence checking**, via hardware-based timers, so third-party applications and management software can check in with the system at IT-defined intervals. IT administrators no longer need to wait for multiple serial polls to verify that an agent has been disabled or removed. And, since software checks in with the hardware, your network isn’t flooded with healthy “heartbeat” signals.

- **System isolation and recovery**, which uses hardware- and software-based filters to check inbound and outbound network traffic for known threats. This capability also provides circuitry that allows IT to define the rules that set rate-limits, trigger port-isolation, or fully isolate a PC (except for the remediation port) by disconnecting its network communication via hardware/firmware, at the software stack in the OS. This is a more secure disconnect than traditional software-based isolation, which can be circumvented by hackers, viruses, worms, and user tampering.
• "Readily-available" alerting, so the PC can send alerts and simple network management protocol (SNMP) traps to the management console anytime, based on IT policies. This gives technicians greater visibility of software inventory changes, OS lock-ups, boot problems, hardware failures, fan speeds, temperatures, case intrusions, and other critical events as they occur.

• Persistent event logs, so IT technicians can access the list of events that occurred before a hardware or software problem became apparent, including events that occurred before the notebook or desktop PC connected to the network.

• Persistent universal unique identifier (UUID), stored in persistent, nonvolatile memory. This identifier persists even if a hardware or software configuration has changed, the system has been reimaged, or the OS has been updated. IT technicians can now accurately identify virtually all notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology on the network.

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• Multithreaded performance with Intel® Core™2 Duo processor. The new notebook and desktop PCs are powered by the state-of-the-art Intel® Core™2 Duo processor. These PCs deliver increased multitasking and multithreading for significantly improved performance over previous-generation notebook and desktop PCs. IT technicians can now run virus scans, e-mail synchronization, back-ups, and other tasks in the background without bogging down foreground user applications.

• Energy efficiency and great battery life. Advanced architecture, package design techniques, power coordination, and thermal technologies use power more efficiently, so less unnecessary heat is generated and less cooling required for these high-performance systems. In desktop PCs, the result is excellent performance in quieter, smaller form factors. Notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology not only consume less power, but also include improved battery technologies, offering greater efficiency and great battery life for users.

• Ready for Microsoft Windows Vista® Notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology are ready for the new Windows Vista OS and three-dimensional Windows Vista Aero* interface. The new PCs include built-in graphics to support the highest levels of the Windows Vista Aero experience, include support for 64-bit applications, and deliver the performance required for the intensive, multithreaded OS.

IT administrators now have the benefits of increased security and better remote management, while providing users with high-performance PCs that meet both wired and wireless needs.

Use an existing management console for both notebook and desktop PCs

The management capabilities built into Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology allow for a phased-in or integrated implementation of systems. To help simplify the transition to a remotely managed environment, the new notebook and desktop PCs use the same management console and communication mechanisms as other PCs.

Leading management software companies such as Altiris, HP, LANDesk, and Microsoft have already optimized their software to take advantage of the advanced capabilities of Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology. Ask your management-console vendor about support for the new hardware-based security and remote-management capabilities of Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology.
Managing the wireless notebook

One of the challenges IT technicians face today is managing notebooks without using up battery life which the user might need at that moment for work. Intel Centrino Pro processor technology is designed to help conserve energy and extend battery life for users by providing remote capabilities depending on the state of the system: AC-powered or battery-powered, on or off, awake versus asleep. This helps ensure that IT tasks are performed at the most advantageous times for the mobile user.

Tables 1 and 2 show how the capabilities are enabled for wired and wireless notebooks in various states, both inside and outside the corporate network.

Table 1. Capability matrix for wired Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology based-notebooks and Intel® vPro processor technology-based desktop PCs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use Cases</th>
<th>Usages</th>
<th>Plugged into AC power source - notebook or desktop</th>
<th>Battery power - notebook</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Awake/operable</td>
<td>Awake/inoperable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agent presence checking and alerting</td>
<td>Ensure critical applications are running</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System isolation and recovery</td>
<td>Virus outbreak protection</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote power up/power cycle</td>
<td>IT resets PC to clean state (or powers up PC for servicing)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote diagnosis and repair</td>
<td>IT diagnoses remotely, out-of-band via event log stored in nonvolatile memory and SOL / IDE-R</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote hardware and/or software asset tracking</td>
<td>Take a hardware and software inventory regardless of OS or power state</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encrypted, remote software update</td>
<td>Third-party application discovers/updates antivirus engines and signatures</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 2. Capability matrix for wireless Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology-based notebooks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use Cases</th>
<th>Usages</th>
<th>Wireless capabilities for Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology-based notebooks within the corporate network</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plugged into AC power source – notebook</td>
<td>Battery power – notebook</td>
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<td>Third-party application discovers/updates antivirus engines and signatures</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Wireless access to the powerful capabilities of Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology requires WPA, WPA2/802.11i security.

*This capability is available even for wireless notebooks in an awake and operable state which are operating outside the corporate network.
“Readily-available” tamper-resistant capabilities

Software-only management applications are usually installed at the same level as the OS. This leaves their management agents vulnerable to tampering. Communication privacy is also an issue in today’s PCs because the in-band, software-based communication channel they use is not secure.

In contrast, Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology rely on two keys: “readily-available” remote communication with the PC, and robust security technologies. The security methodologies and technologies help make sure both the capabilities and the communication channel are well-secured and resistant to tampering by users, hackers, viruses, worms, and other security threats.

Remote-communication channel runs outside the OS

The communication channel used by Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology runs outside the OS (refer to Figures 2 and 3 on the next page). The channel is based on the TCP/IP firmware stack designed into system hardware, not on the software stack in the OS. The channel allows critical system communication (such as alerting) and operations (such as agent presence checking, remote booting, and console redirection) to continue securely virtually anytime.

Because the channel is independent of the state of the OS, it allows authorized IT administrators to communicate with an AC-powered PC anytime. Even if hardware (such as a hard drive) has failed, the OS is unresponsive, the PC is powered off, or its management agents are missing, the communication channel is still available to technicians. As long as the system is connected to the network and an AC power source, the channel is available to authorized technicians, even if PC power is off. For wireless notebooks on battery power, the channel is available anytime the system is awake and connected to the corporate network via an Ethernet cable. The communication channel is even available for wireless notebooks connected over a host OS-based VPN outside the corporate network when notebooks are awake and working properly.

Wireless technologies

Notebooks with Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology support many wireless technologies, such as Wireless LAN and Gigabit Ethernet, including:

- 802.11a/b/g protocols for secure, flexible wireless connectivity.
- 802.11n, the new draft standard expected to deliver up to 5x improvement in data throughput.
- Current Cisco*-compatible extensions and features for improved network performance and Voice over WLAN, by optimal access-point selection technology.

802.11n – delivering performance gains of up to 5x

Notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and Intel® Next-Gen Wireless-N on a new wireless 802.11n network provide improved wireless connectivity for mobile users at the office. Among its many benefits, Intel Next-Gen Wireless-N technology can deliver up to five times the performance of existing 802.11g networks. It offers faster and broader wireless coverage, and helps reduce dead spots and dropped connections to improve productivity with fewer wireless interruptions.

Intel is committed to the adoption of the 802.11n standard. Intel has worked closely with leading wireless access-point (AP) vendors and has conducted extensive testing to verify the implementation of the technology. IT administrators can be assured that notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and Intel Next-Gen Wireless-N work well with existing 802.11a/b/g access points and also provide great benefits with new wireless-n networks.
Figure 2. Remote communication with wired systems. All applicable capabilities are available for notebooks with Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel® vPro™ processor technology that are plugged into AC power and connected to the corporate network via an Ethernet cable.

Figure 3. Remote communication with wireless systems. Technicians have some remote service capabilities for wireless Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology-based notebooks both inside and outside the corporate network.
Active states for the Intel® Management Engine

The security and management capabilities of Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology are embedded in the system’s hardware and firmware as part of the Intel® Management Engine.

When a PC (notebook or desktop) is AC-powered, the Intel Management Engine is on—even when the system is powered off. This allows technicians to securely access asset information, power up a PC to receive a security update, and perform other tasks off-hours or when it is most advantageous to users.

When notebooks are on battery power, the Intel Management Engine is active (and the security and management capabilities available) when the system is on and in the awake state. This helps preserve battery life when notebooks are asleep, hibernating, or powered off.

Robust security methodologies for tamper-resistant capabilities

The hardware-based communication and manageability capabilities are secured through a variety of robust schemes. These include:

- Transport layer security (TLS)
- HTTP authentication
- Enterprise-level authentication using Microsoft Active Directory* (Kerberos)
- Access control lists (ACLs)
- Digital firmware signing
- Other advanced methodologies and technologies.

Even when the PC is off, its software agents have been disabled, or its OS is unresponsive, the security measures built into these notebook and desktop PCs help ensure the confidentiality and authentication of the communication channel and hardware-based capabilities, and the security of stored information.

Improved security for notebook and desktop PCs

IT administrators typically identify their most critical challenge as securing PCs from malicious attacks. The traditional problem is that even the best software-only solution can’t manage or secure systems that are powered off or whose OS is unavailable.

New layers of defense

Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology give IT organizations new, proactive, hardware-based defenses to deal with malicious attacks (refer to Figure 4 on the next page). There are now several distinct layers of protection for both notebook and desktop PCs, including filtering of network traffic, “heartbeat” presence checking of third-party agents, and other key capabilities:

- Proactive filtering of threats and isolating PCs through hardware/software filters.
- Remote visibility of software agents through agent-presence checking.
- Nonvolatile memory to better protect critical system information.
- Optional hardware-based “virtual appliance” for desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology. (Refer to the virtual-appliance section on page 18.)

These new layers of defense make it easier to identify threats faster on both wired and wireless systems, and stop them more effectively before they begin to spread.
Automated, continual checking for agents

Traditionally, IT organizations have used serial polling to verify the presence of security agents (or other business-critical applications). Because this method can saturate the network with healthy heartbeats (restricting the bandwidth available for productive traffic), IT organizations often poll for compliance only once or twice a day – if that often.

In contrast, notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology use a regular, programmable “heartbeat” presence check, which is built into the Intel Management Engine. The heartbeat uses a "watchdog" timer so third-party software can check in with the Intel Management Engine at programmable intervals, to confirm that the agent is still active. Each time an agent checks in, it resets its timer. If an agent hasn’t checked in before the timer goes off, the agent is presumed removed, tampered with, or disabled. The Intel Management Engine then automatically and immediately logs the alert and notifies (if specified) the IT console.

With hardware-based heartbeats, IT administrators no longer need to wait for multiple polls to identify a potential problem. The PC itself helps improve the reliability of presence checks and reduce the window of software vulnerability. And, these healthy heartbeats never leave the PC. Only when there is a problem is data sent across the network, saving valuable network bandwidth, yet still offering rapid notification of problems. Combined with the remote power-up capability, the entire process of checking and reinstalling missing agents can also be automated, improving compliance further and saving additional resources.

Push updates down the wire – regardless of PC power state

There are several methods in use today to wake a desktop PC in order to push out an update, but those methods are not secure, or they work only when the OS is running properly. When a PC is inoperable or powered down, technicians have traditionally had to update those systems later, when the machines were powered up and working properly – a process that allowed many systems to remain vulnerable to attack for dangerous lengths of time.

Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology help reduce security risks by allowing authorized technicians to remotely power up PCs (AC-powered and wired notebooks and desktop PCs). This will help IT organizations substantially speed up critical updates and patches. Technicians can now:

• Check a PC’s software version information, .DAT file information, and other data stored in nonvolatile memory, and find out if anything needs updating – without waking up a PC.
• Remotely power up AC-powered, wired PCs from the IT console, so updates can be pushed even to machines that were originally powered off at the start of the maintenance cycle.
• Deploy more updates and critical patches off-hours or when it won’t interrupt the user.
The new capabilities allow IT administrators to automate more security processes. In turn, this can help IT administrators establish a more secure, well-managed environment.

**Greater automation for compliance with corporate policies**
With the ability to remotely access PCs, IT administrators can automate more processes, including update, remediation, and management processes.

For example, if a polling agent discovers software that is out of date, the third-party management application can automatically take a software inventory, port-isolate the system temporarily, and then update the system. The management application can then remotely return the system to its previous power state: on, off, hibernating, or sleeping. This can help administrators eliminate many of the traditional deskside visits required for updates, critical patches, and remediation, and help reduce risks to the network as a whole.

**Filter threats and isolate PCs**
Notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology include programmable hardware- or software-based filters that examine network traffic to help identify threats (refer to Figure 5). When a threat is identified, a policy and hardware-based “switch” can:

- Isolate the system by port to halt a suspicious type of traffic
- Disconnect the network data path at the OS (or set a rate limit) to contain threats more quickly
- Rate-limit network traffic to give a technician more time to investigate a threat

The PC can now help protect itself and reduce the risk of threats spreading to the network.

**Receive alerts even if a system is off the corporate network**
Notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology have policy-based alerting designed into the system. IT administrators can now define the types of alerts they want to receive – so less critical alerts do not add substantially to network traffic (all alerts are logged in the persistent event log). Since alerting uses the “readily-available” communication channel, IT can receive critical notifications from PCs within the corporate network, even if the OS is inoperable, hardware has failed, a desktop PC is powered down, or a wireless notebook is missing its management agents. IT can even receive notifications from a wireless notebook (awake and operable) that is outside the corporate network and connected via host OS-based VPN.

**Simpler remote management whether wired or wireless**
Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology provide several innovative hardware-based capabilities to improve discovery and inventory tasks. Key for IT organizations is that the new capabilities are available to authorized technicians even if the OS is unresponsive, hardware (such as a hard drive) has failed, management agents are missing, or an AC-powered system is off.

The new capabilities can help IT organizations reduce the number of deskside visits or service depot calls required to inventory, upgrade, repair, rebuild, or reimage PCs by up to 80% to 90%. With better remote tools, IT administrators can also automate more of these tasks. And, with greater visibility and access to the PC’s state, more work can be performed off-hours or when it is otherwise convenient to users.

![Figure 5. Filters inspect outbound network traffic. Using hardware or software filters, the PC can port-isolate itself or cut off its own network data path to quarantine itself when a threat is recognized – even if its OS is not available – to help prevent threats from spreading to the network.](image-url)
Accurate, remote discovery and inventory for wired or wireless systems

One of the challenges in managing PCs is acquiring information that is typically lost or unavailable when a system is powered down, reconfigured, rebuilt, or inoperative. On average, U.S. businesses can’t find or inventory up to 20% or more of their assets at any given time, and the percentage of “missing” assets for overseas businesses is even higher. Even with excellent asset-location applications and processes, IT organizations still can’t find 5% of their assets. In terms of asset maintenance and licensing services alone, today’s businesses overspend on average by a factor of 2. And, inaccuracies caused by underreporting may also expose corporate officers to liabilities, such as from noncompliance with Sarbanes-Oxley and other government regulations. There is a critical need for accurate system inventories, especially for PCs that are powered off or whose OS is inoperative.

Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology give authorized technicians access to critical system information in nonvolatile memory (NVM) to improve discovery and inventory tasks. This information includes the:

- **UUID**, which persists even across reconfigurations, reimaging, and OS rebuilds.
- **Hardware asset information**, such as manufacturer and model information for components.
- **Software asset information**, such as version information, .DAT file information, pointers to database information, and other data stored by third-party vendors.

IT technicians can now:

- Write asset and other information (or pointers to asset information) into NVM.
- Poll both wired and wireless systems for hardware and software asset information stored in NVM.
- Identify noncompliant PCs even if management agents have been disabled.
- Power up wired, AC-powered PCs that are off to perform inventory tasks, push replacement management agents to the system, and remotely power the PC back to the state in which the user left it.
- Push replacement agents to a wireless PC the next time it is awake, to bring it back into compliance before further network access is allowed – even if management agents are missing.

The new capabilities help reduce time-consuming manual inventories, saving significant costs in labor. Unused software licenses can also be appropriately reallocated to other resources, while hardware assets can be better utilized and warranties better managed. At the same time, businesses can be more confident that their audits are in compliance with government regulations.

Resolve more problems remotely

One of the most critical IT needs is a greater ability to remotely resolve PC problems, especially when a system’s OS is down or hardware has failed. According to industry studies, deskside and service-center calls make up only 20% of PC problems in a typical business, but they take up 80% of the budget. In fact, the cost of a deskside visit is seven times the cost of a remote problem resolution. According to an Intel study of 44,000 trouble tickets, approximately 40% or more of the cost of deskside and service center calls could have been eliminated if IT had had better remote capabilities for problem resolution.

Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology deliver many new tools to improve the accuracy of remote hardware diagnostics and substantially reduce the deskside visits or service-depot calls required for OS/software problem resolution:

- Remote/redirected boot (IDE-R)
- Console redirection (SOL)
- Persistent event logs
- Always-available asset information
- Access to preboot BIOS configuration information
- Policy-based alerting

IT technicians can now remotely:

- Access asset information anytime, to identify “missing” or failed hardware components, and verify software version information.
- Identify BIOS versions, push a new BIOS version to the PC, or update BIOS configuration settings.
- Guide a PC through a troubleshooting session – without requiring user participation.
- Watch as BIOS, drivers, and the OS attempt to load, to identify problems with the boot process.
- Upload the persistent event log to identify the sequence of events (such as temperature spikes or an unauthorized software download) that occurred before the system failed.
• Push new copies of missing or corrupted files, such as .DLL files, to restore an OS.
• Rebuild the OS or fully reimage the hard drive remotely.

If a system becomes inoperable (refer to Figure 6), a technician can now use IDE-R to change the system’s boot device to a CD or to an image located on a remote network drive – without leaving the service center. The technician can then use SOL to remotely guide the notebook or desktop PC through a troubleshooting session. If a user application has become corrupted, the technician can remotely reimage the user’s hard drive and restore user data from known-good files, overwriting corrupt or problem files. The user is back up and running as quickly and efficiently as possible – without a service depot call or deskside visit.

Many technology evaluations and case studies have already shown that the new capabilities can help substantially reduce IT service costs for problem resolution. For example, Intel training facilities, which include many sites across several continents, investigated the new technology and determined that it could reduce on-site visits for software problem resolution and hardware diagnostics by as much as 75% or more, and speed up IT response time by 80%.

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**Figure 6. Remote problem resolution for an inoperable OS.** New capabilities allow a technician to access, diagnose, and remotely repair or rebuild an OS that has become inoperable, for wired, AC-powered PCs and for awake, wireless systems within the corporate network.
Common use cases

Table 3 lists some common use cases for improved security and remote management, and the capabilities that enable them. The capabilities listed in the table are available for wired, AC-powered PCs, and for wireless, awake notebooks within the corporate network – even if an OS is inoperable or hardware (such as a hard drive) has failed.

Table 3. Common use cases for Intel® Centrino® Pro and Intel® vPro™ processor technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Security</th>
<th>Event log(^a) and alerting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alert upon falling out of compliance</td>
<td>Alert on event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remotely power up PC(^a) to receive security upgrade or critical patch</td>
<td>Alert on disabled/missing agent (in combination with agent presence checking)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remotely patch PCs that don’t have management agents installed</td>
<td>Remote access to event log</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor inbound/outbound network traffic for threats</td>
<td>Access list of events that occurred before wireless notebook or desktop PC connected to network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass shut-down during malicious attacks</td>
<td>Confirm critical events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port-isolate or quarantine PCs</td>
<td><strong>Remote software problem resolution</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Remote asset tracking(^b)</strong></td>
<td>Remote console redirection to guide PC through troubleshooting session without user participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accurately discover PCs on network</td>
<td>Access list of events that led to problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accurate hardware-asset inventory</td>
<td>Remote boot PC to clean state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote software-asset inventory(^c)</td>
<td>Redirected boot to change PC’s boot device to a remote drive (or network share) to repair / remediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-of-lease planning</td>
<td>Remote watch as BIOS/OS loads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRU inventory management</td>
<td>Remote install missing/corrupted files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General remote services</strong></td>
<td>Remote rebuild OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote build (provision) new PCs before management agents are installed</td>
<td><strong>Remote hardware diagnostics(^b)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote OS migrations</td>
<td>Remote hardware-asset inventory to identify problem component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote application upgrades</td>
<td>Access list of events that led to problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote BIOS updates</td>
<td>Remote access preboot BIOS information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Remote HD servicing (disk defrag, removal of temporary files, etc.) | \(^a\)Remote power-up is not available over wireless networks. \(^b\)Access to nonvolatile memory, including UUID, hardware-asset information, software asset information in the third-party data store, and event logs is also available when the notebook is outside the corporate network and connected over a host OS-based VPN. \(^c\)You can perform a remote software-asset inventory by accessing software information stored in the third-party data store; or by powering up an AC-powered, wired PC, then performing the remote software inventory through the software inventory agent.
Support for hardware-assisted virtualization

Notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology include Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT) to support more efficient virtualization of multiple OS environments. Desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology also support a new category of applications called “virtual appliances.”

Heavyweight vs. lightweight virtualization

“Heavyweight” virtualization has been used on PCs and servers for several years. The heavyweight model uses a robust, fully featured virtual machine monitor (VMM) software package to enable multiple user OSs to run simultaneously on one system, such as Microsoft Windows® and Linux® running side-by-side. In most cases, the heavy-weight VMM contains software and drivers that abstract all the OS functions away from the physical hardware. Application calls for graphics, LAN, I/O etc. are all intermediated by the VMM. This model is well-suited to situations where users require access to multiple, independent OSs, such as a software developer working in multiple environments. However, it tends to be expensive due to the cost of the VMM and the various OS licenses. Providers of heavyweight VMMs have improved their efficiency by incorporating Intel VT into their software.

In contrast, the “lightweight” virtualization model uses a much thinner VMM structure to enable relatively small, purpose-built virtual machines to run alongside a single user-visible OS. In this case, only the network traffic is intermediated by the VMM; all other driver calls are passed through the VMM to the hardware. Intel is working with several leading security and manageability ISVs to create lightweight “virtual appliances” that will provide vital services to the platform.

What is a virtual appliance?

A virtual appliance is a self-contained, lightweight operating environment dedicated to a particular function. For example, its function could be intrusion prevention or configuration compliance.

Complementary types of outbreak containment

Desktop PCs with Intel® vPro™ processor technology offer IT two powerful approaches for containing or isolating threats through Intel® Active Management Technology (Intel® AMT) or a “virtual appliance.” Intel AMT is the set of remote security and management capabilities designed into the PC. Each approach – Intel AMT or a virtual appliance – has its benefits and capabilities. Each approach offers a different level at which to control threats, depending on the power state of the PC and the health of its OS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intel AMT for notebook or desktop PCs</th>
<th>Virtual appliance for desktop PCs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Packet analysis and processing performed via an embedded microcontroller in the hardware</td>
<td>• Packet analysis and processing performed in the virtual appliance via the Intel® Core™2 Duo processor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Analyzes packet headers only</td>
<td>• Analyzes packet headers and content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Options for responding to threat: log event, send alert, set rate-limit, switch off network data path before it reaches the OS</td>
<td>• Rich set of options for response to threat, based on capabilities of third-party appliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Enabled even if the wired system’s power is off or the notebook or desktop PC’s OS is inoperative</td>
<td>• Enabled for desktop PCs when system power is on and the virtual appliance is running</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intel AMT and virtual-appliance capabilities can be used together to provide a complete solution for managing and securing desktop PCs. When an OS is enabled, the virtual appliance gives IT administrators all the sophisticated control they need for securing and managing endpoints. When an OS is disabled or PC power is off, Intel AMT lets an IT technician remotely power up, boot, rebuild and remediate desktop machines so the virtual appliance and other management or security applications can once again be used.

The appliance consists of dedicated-function application code, a relatively thin embedded OS, select drivers and includes a lightweight VMM. (Refer to Figure 7 on the next page.) The appliance runs outside the user OS in an isolated partition, so it is invisible to users and less susceptible to intentional or unintentional tampering. It is under the control of authorized IT.
Logically, the appliance resides between the user OS and the network, monitoring the state of the user OS and the network traffic flow. It can communicate to an IT management console or other service independently, allowing for reporting, alerts and remediation without interaction with the user OS. The ISVs building virtual appliances for desktops with Intel vPro processor technology see three main benefits of this software architecture:

- Self-contained environment offers tremendous control over the scope, functions and interactions of the appliance
- The appliance is more resistant to user tampering or software attack since it resides in a separate virtual machine, out of view of the users and not visible to application software running in the user OS
- The relatively compact size of the appliance provides a much smaller attack surface that must be defended compared to defending security software in a fully featured user OS. (Refer to Figure 8 on the next page.)

**Sophisticated security and management responses**

A virtual appliance can deliver the same type of sophisticated functions as other third-party applications – but it does so from a more protected space than the user OS (where most third-party applications are installed). For example, if an appliance detects a problem in network traffic or a deviation from IT policy, it could provide alerting, automated isolation of a particular communication port, isolation of the user OS from the network, a hardware or software inventory, an integrity check of a management agent, a BIOS configuration reset, or deployment of a local patch. (Refer to Figure 8 on the next page.)

**Benefits of virtual appliances**

Since virtual appliances operate outside the user-visible OS they are less tamper resistant and users are unable to shut them off. They also have a smaller attack profile since they contain less software code than a user OS. And because they operate in virtual environments, these appliances have fewer attack paths from software that resides in the user OS.
Figure 8. The virtual appliance offers sophisticated capabilities. Fully integrated application code offers IT a rich set of capabilities for management and security of the user OS. For example, a security appliance can offer IT many remediation paths, from a measured response to full isolation of the user OS.

Turnkey solution is compatible with other technologies

Intel has worked closely with market-leading security and manageability vendors to make sure third-party applications take full advantage of the power of Intel's hardware-based virtual-appliance capabilities. For example, third-party vendors integrate a lightweight VMM, embedded OS, virtualized application, and Intel's virtualized NIC driver into their software solutions. This gives IT a turnkey solution that can be installed and managed like any other self-contained application.

Standard memory, storage, and graphics cards work with the virtual-appliance technology. Desktop PCs with Intel vPro technology can also run off-the-shelf OSs and applications without IT having to perform special installation steps.

Finally, the hardware-based virtualization technology is designed to work with and complement other advanced Intel management and security technologies, such as Intel® Active Management Technology™ (Intel® AMT).
Improved energy-efficient performance

Great business computing starts with Intel inside. In today’s business environment, IT needs systems with enough performance to run their tasks in the background while users run multiple applications in the foreground. At the same time, businesses can’t afford to keep laying more power lines into their facilities just to provide users with the performance needed to get the job done.

Desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology are designed to provide high performance in a quieter, power-efficient package, while notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology not only deliver high performance, but use a variety of advanced technologies that consume less power and offer great battery life.

Intel® Core™2 Duo processor

The state-of-the-art, 64-bit Intel Core 2 Duo processor is optimized for improved multitasking and multithreading to deliver significantly improved performance. For IT organizations, this means that complex engineering programs (such as computer-aided design, or CAD), audio and video encoding, virus scans, antispyware, and other compute-intensive tasks can be run simultaneously in both foreground and background. Critical IT tasks that help secure and manage notebook and desktop PCs no longer interfere with user productivity. And, the new dual-core CPUs can operate at very low voltages, extending battery life for notebook users, and reducing power consumption and thus noise in the office for users of desktop PCs.

Cutting-edge transistor technologies

Advanced transistor technologies from Intel improve performance per watt through nanoscale transistor elements, improved gate insulation, larger in-process caches, and other advances in design. These technologies allow transistors to switch faster, leak less power, and turn off when not needed – all of which increases performance in both notebook and desktop PCs, while at the same time improving energy efficiency.

Optional Intel® Turbo Memory speeds up booting and application launching

Because processor performance has outpaced disk-drive performance, mechanical latency (the time required for a disk to spin and its heads to move to the requested data) has become increasingly important in defining a system’s response time. For example, a typical disk access time is 16 million processor clocks.

Intel is now offering an optional new technology in notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology: a NAND flash-based platform accelerator called Intel® Turbo Memory. By storing large amounts of information closer to your processor, Intel Turbo Memory helps reduce boot time and enables faster application loading when running Microsoft Windows Vista. Notebooks using Intel Turbo Memory typically launch applications up to 2x faster and boot up to 20% faster.

Stable, standards-based, and ready for the future, with broad industry support

Notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology are stable, standardized platforms with broad industry support, ready for future operating systems and applications.

Built on standards

Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology are built on industry standards. The Intel AMT application programming interfaces (APIs) are both open-specification and based on Web services. Communication between the management console and end-user PC is also based on common protocols and industry-standard security methodologies and technologies. This opens up many choices for IT administrators with regards to selecting both original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and software vendors. For example, IT administrators can choose to use Intel AMT or alert standard format (ASF) to manage PCs, select from among many standards-based usage models, and establish the authentication level appropriate for their environment.
Some of the standards upon which Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology are built include:

- ASF – alert standard format
- XML – extensible markup language
- SOAP – simple object access protocol, which allows IT administrators to communicate with PC hardware across the network
- TLS, HTTP authentication, Kerberos, and other advanced security methodologies

In the future, Intel-based notebook and desktop PCs will also provide hardware-enabled support for WS-MAN (Web services manageability).

**Ready for Windows Vista** and Office 2007**

PCs with Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology handle today’s operating systems and are ready for Windows Vista, which has a threaded architecture, updated Windows Display Driver Mode (WDDM), built-in security features like Windows Defender,* and other advanced features.

Readiness for Windows Vista is important because a Windows Vista ready PC requires a configuration with at least 1 GB RAM, graphics support for DirectX* graphics, with a WDDM driver, and a modern processor.12 Further, since Windows Vista has built-in security tools (such as Windows Defender and BitLocker* Drive Encryption13), the high-performance dual-core processing of the Intel Core 2 Duo processor is necessary to deliver the optimum Windows Vista experience. The Intel Core 2 Duo processor also provides the performance needed for the next generation of Microsoft Office,* including the performance for intense, always-on (by default) text-based search indexing, which is heavily multithreaded.

**Support for Windows Vista Aero**

To support the highest levels of Windows Vista as seen in the Business or Enterprise Editions, including the Windows Vista Aero user interface experience, the built-in graphics of PCs with Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology include many technologies, such as:

- Support for WDDM for improved system stability and potentially fewer PC crashes
- Support for DirectX 9 graphics
- Eight fully programmable execution cores
- New levels of richness and realism for SM 3.0-enabled applications
- Intel® Clear Video Technology in Intel Centrino Pro processor technology with advanced de-interlacing ProcAMP color control, and high-quality video scalar to smooth video playback and improve picture quality
- Graphics-render standby state to help maximize battery life for notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology

Since the new Intel-based notebook and desktops provide dual-core processing power, built-in 64-bit graphics support, and are ready for Windows Vista, migration to the new OS should be simpler.

**Broad industry support**

New hardware technology doesn’t mean much without software to take advantage of it. Intel Centrino Pro and Intel vPro processor technology are already supported by major software vendors in management applications, security software, and business software. Notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology will be available from leading, worldwide desktop OEMs and will be supported by major IT service providers and managed service providers.

**Stability and simplicity**

Notebooks with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology are available under the Intel® Stable Image Platform Program (Intel® SIPP), so businesses can avoid unexpected changes that might force software image revisions or hardware requalifications. With Intel SIPP-compliant notebooks and desktops, IT can be more assured of having a stable platform that simplifies the deployment of new notebook and desktop PCs.
Wired or Wireless: Proactive security and built-in manageability

Intel is uniquely positioned to provide critical business and IT capabilities on a notebook or desktop PC through extensive, breakthrough R&D, leading-edge manufacturing, and a unique ability to catalyze broad ISV support for creative solutions.

For IT organizations, the result is a professional-grade system designed from hardware to software with built-in capabilities that resolve the most critical challenges of business and IT – improved, proactive security and remote manageability – with energy-efficient performance.

With Intel built in, IT organizations can address a wider range of enterprise needs and shift resources from managing and securing their notebook and desktop PCs, to accelerating business into the future. To learn more about the built-in security and manageability capabilities of notebook PCs with Intel Centrino Pro processor technology and desktop PCs with Intel vPro processor technology visit: www.intel.com/go/businesspc
In order to experience the new benefits of wireless-n on notebooks with Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology, users must be connected to a wireless 802.11n network.

Wireless connectivity and some features may require you to purchase additional software, services or external hardware. References to enhanced wireless performance as enabling Execute Disable Bit functionality requires a PC with a processor with Execute Disable Bit capability and a supporting operating system. Check with your PC manufacturer on whether your system delivers Execute Disable Bit functionality.

Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT) requires a computer system with an enabled Intel® processor, BIOS, virtual machine monitor (VMM), and for some uses, certain platform software enabled for it. Functionality, performance, or other benefits will vary depending on hardware and software configurations and may require a BIOS update. Software applications may not be compatible with all operating systems. Please check with your application vendor.

Up to 2x greater range and up to 5x better performance with optional Intel® Nex­Gen Wireless N technology enabled by 2x­3 Draft N implementations with 2 spatial streams.

Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology and Intel® vPro™ processor technology include powerful Intel® Active Management Technology (Intel® AMT). Intel AMT requires the platform to have an Intel AMT-enabled chipset, network hardware and software, as well as connection with a power source and a corporate network connection. With regards to notebooks, Intel AMT may not be available or certain capabilities may be limited over a host OS-based VPN or when connecting wirelessly, on battery power, sleeping, hibernating or powered off. For more information, see http://www.intel.com/technology/manage/iamt.

Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT) requires a computer system with a processor, chipset, BIOS, operating system, device drivers and applications enabled for Intel® 64 architecture. Processors will not operate (including 32-bit operation) without an Intel® 64 architecture-enabled BIOS. Performance will vary depending on your hardware and software configurations. Consult with your system vendor for more information.

Wireless access to the powerful capabilities of Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology requires WPA, WPA2/802.11i security.

Intel processor numbers are not a measure of performance. Processor numbers differentiate features within each processor family, not across different processor families. See www.intel.com/products/processor_number for details.

Enabling Execute Disable Bit functionality requires a PC with a processor with Execute Disable Bit capability and a supporting operating system. Check with your PC manufacturer on whether your system delivers Execute Disable Bit functionality.

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Up to 2x greater range and up to 5x better performance with optional Intel® Nex­Gen Wireless N technology enabled by 2x­3 Draft N implementations with 2 spatial streams. Actual results may vary based on your specific hardware, connection rate, site conditions, and software configurations. See http://www.intel.com/performance/mobile/index.htm for more information. Also requires a Connect with Intel® Centrino® processor technology certified wireless n access point. Wireless n access points without the Connect with Intel Centrino processor technology identifier may require additional firmware for increased performance results. Check with your PC and access point manufacturer for details.

In order to experience the new benefits of wireless-n on notebooks with Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology, users must be connected to a wireless 802.11n network. Existing 802.11a, 802.11b and 802.11g networks/access points will not provide the new benefits.

For detailed information about the security methodologies and technologies used to secure the capabilities of Intel® Centrino® Pro processor technology, see the Intel® Centrino Technology Deployment and Reference Guide, Intel, 2006 at www.intel.com/business/vpro.


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