

REQUIREMENTS

Application	ChreosClient – Chreos
Minimum service pack	SP40
This document	Chreos System Requirements Published June 2006

Overview

The following document outlines system requirements and possible configurations for running Chreos in a multi user environment. While all possible care has been taken in the preparation of this document the number of possible system configurations means that you should discuss any unusual system settings with your Chreos distributor.

Chreos Components

Chreos is a multi-user Client/Server application. Chreos is comprised of the following components.

ChreosClient

This application is the core interface to the Chreos system providing the user interface for viewing data and entering transactions.

ChreosClient communicates with ChreosServer and the ChreosAccounts database. This communication is done using TCP/IP, the same system that computers use to communicate with the internet. ChreosClient may run on the same machine as ChreosServer or any other machine on a TCP/IP network that can access the computer running ChreosServer.

ChreosServer

ChreosServer runs on one machine and can support multiple sets of data (companies). It manages multiple accesses, processes transactions sent to it from ChreosClient and performs basic maintenance functions. One copy of ChreosServer supports multiple instances of ChreosClient, the actual number being determined by the number of user licenses. The data for each company supported must reside on the same machine as ChreosServer.

ChreosAccounts Database

The ChreosAccounts database stores all data for each company supported by ChreosServer. This is a Firebird relational database and requires Firebird server software to be installed on the machine containing the data. Firebird

client drivers need to be installed on any other machines running ChreosClient.

Firebird is an open source relational database offering ANSI SQL standard features. Firebird offers excellent concurrency, high performance and powerful language support for stored procedures and triggers. It has been used in production systems under a variety of names since 1984.

Crystal Reports

Crystal Reports is a highly regarded and extremely popular reporting tool used to create and run simple to extremely complex reports. ChreosClient and ChreosServer both use Crystal Reports to print, view and export reports. Crystal Reports needs to be installed on all machines running Chreos.

As Crystal Reports is reporting on a Firebird SQL database an ODBC driver for Firebird needs to be installed on all machines running Chreos. This is provided with Chreos.

Software Requirements

The following requirements are determined from the above products.

Operating Systems

Any Windows operating system currently supported by Microsoft. This includes the following. Windows 98*, ME*, NT, 2000, XP, and 2003 server. Chreos can often run on Windows versions no longer supported by Microsoft such as Windows 95, however as newer features are added to Chreos it becomes more difficult to support these aging systems and support is not tested or guaranteed.

Chreos supports Windows Terminal Services (TS) connections, however to use TS connections a Chreos TS license is required. A TS connection or other remote login can be very beneficial for support purposes. (A Chreos TS license is not required to get support via TS).

**Please note Microsoft support for these operating systems officially ends on July 11 2006.*

Security

Chreos will run on any user system with most levels of security. Users need to at least have access to 'Documents and Settings' including 'All users' and the logged in user. However when running Chreos service packs (Chreos update files), users need to be logged in either as 'Administrator' or someone with similar privileges.

ChreosServer always needs to be run as either 'Administrator' or someone with similar privileges.

Chreos will run with firewall software installed, however as such software often blocks communication by TCP/IP you need to configure your firewall to allow ChreosClient and ChreosServer to communicate by TCP/IP. This is

usually simply a case of clicking ‘yes’ or ‘allow’ when prompted by your firewall software. Some systems, however, will need a specific port to be opened. Your distributor can provide further details. This is a simple task and should not be a security risk.

We recommend all users run antivirus software. However it is best to disable automatic scanning of the ChreosAccounts database file as scanning it frequently can lead to performance degradation.

If you are using an older version of Nortons Antivirus (earlier than about 2003) there is a known Crystal Reports issue that causes some reports to not function. A small registry change can be made to Nortons to stop this occurring.

Network

Chreos requires a stable TCP/IP network. A Firebird requirement is that the client machines must be able to access the database file using its full path. This means that this file needs to be shared. Firebird will NOT work if this share is a mapped directory. Your share must be the actual full file path.

Some (often older) machines that use dial up internet connections for web access may require configuration changes to prevent the dialup box appearing when ChreosClient is started.

ChreosServer handles all ‘transactional’ printing. This includes any transaction (Point of Sale (POS) receipts, Debtor invoices, etc) that prints as part of its creation. All printers that these transactions are to be printed on must be installed on the computer running ChreosServer. This also includes POS cash register drawers.

Software Conflicts

Chreos currently ships with Crystal Reports 8.5 and will update any versions of Crystal lower than this to 8.5. This is not usually a problem, however some software such as ‘Deskbank’ from Westpac may not function once Chreos is installed on the same computer.

A part of Microsoft Small Business Server (SBS) uses the same TCP/IP port as the Firebird database system. This port is actually reserved for Firebird. However it is possible to change the default Firebird port. This is only an issue where Firebird Server and SBS are run on the same computer.

ChreosServer

ChreosServer is not a Windows service. Due to the way some Windows systems load we recommend starting ChreosServer manually. If you wish to auto-start ChreosServer you must start it after your network is initialised.

As part of the installation process, Chreos will create a shared folder to meet a number of operational requirements. This has to be on the machine ChreosServer is running on.

Hardware Requirements

Chreos requires healthy computers running on a stable network. There are a number of factors that can further improve system performance. The following are recommended minimum requirements. These are not the absolute requirements unless otherwise indicated. Figures shown in the tables below are for existing older hardware sites considering Chreos.

ChreosServer Computer

This should be a fast computer. As the ChreosServer performs most of the processing and the ChreosAccounts database resides on this machine any improvement in this machine will provide better performance for all users. It should have:

- A fast Hard Disk Drive (HDD) with plenty of free space, 1 gigabyte or more for larger organizations.
- Plenty of memory. SQL database systems thrive on RAM. Although ChreosServer has low memory requirements, Firebird will provide better performance with more RAM. Depending on the number of users 1GB or more will improve performance (although 512MB is ok).
- The faster the processor the better. ChreosServer is a multithreaded application that can take advantage of multi-CPU, multi-core or hyperthreaded machines. However this is certainly not required. The current version of Firebird used by Chreos does not fully support multi-CPU, multi-core or hyperthreaded CPUs. If you wish to use such a machine some minor configuration changes are required. In general this simply tells Firebird which CPU to use. Your Chreos supplier can provide further details.
- Screen and video card are unimportant for this system unless it will also be running ChreosClient.
- Windows 2000 or later.

Suggested minimum server requirements

Organization size	CPU	Memory
2 - 3 users	500mhz	256MB
3 - 10 users	1000mhz	512MB
10 -20 users	1500mhz	1GB

This table assumes an average amount of use. Memory and CPU values are based on a Windows 2000 OS. Later operating systems have heavier requirements that may effect these figures.

ChreosClient Machines

These machines need not be as highly equipped as the computer running ChreosServer because the client machines do not do as much processing. However, better machines will provide improved performance in some areas. Some system examples are provided below.

Suggested minimum client requirements

Operating system	CPU	Memory
Windows 2000	500mhz	128MB
Windows XP	700mhz	256MB

Other Requirements

- TCP/IP networking
- A screen resolution of 800x600 or better.

Recommendations

- While installing ChreosClient on the same computer as ChreosServer is fine and often useful we don't recommend it be used as a work terminal. Although this is possible and fine for some small sites it is not recommended for larger sites as the performance for other users can be degraded.
- An internet (preferably broadband) connection on the computer running ChreosServer is useful for software updates and automated emailing of invoices.
- The speed of your network will affect the performance of your Client machines. 100Mbit networks (or faster) will provide better performance.
- A network running with a switch will perform better than one based around a hub.
- A slow video card on your client machines will slow the screen drawing and make the Client application run slower. This is not an issue on newer hardware.
- A high speed hard disk drive (HDD) on your ChreosServer machine will improve performance.

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