

Going for Gold!

Having met all requirements, the Prophet group has been upgraded to Gold Certified Partner level. Enjoying a close working relationship with Microsoft, Gold Certified Partners represent the highest level of competence and expertise with Microsoft technologies.

Paul Stofberg, Prophet SA managing director, said, "After achieving Partner status, we set our sights on becoming a Gold partner and managed this after only four months. Now we have access to exclusive Microsoft resources to help us improve our skills base and update our software even more. There's a definitive skills shortage in South Africa and hopefully the access to exclusive resources will ensure that Prophet has the best people and software in the industry."



Down to business

The year started well for Prophet SA with two new QXprophet users: Fruitworks and Cape Five.

Based in Paarl, Western Cape, Fruitworks (Pty) Ltd exports a variety of deciduous produce to wholesalers around the world. With a list of committed producers since inception in 2001, the company ensures that growers maintain good agricultural practices and are GlobalGAP-

accredited. All pack houses are HACCP and ISO-accredited. The historic Wolfheart brand name is used in selected pack houses on customers' request.

Established in 1997, Cape Five specialises in exporting stone and pome fruit, with plums being its main line. Managing director Wayne Mudge is upbeat about the QXprophet system, which has been operational since November. "The big plus for us is that the system is updated continuously and support is a phone call away."

Real time for J O Sims

To enable real time stock control throughout its processing, UK-based J O Sims has extended its Prophet Pr2 system to use the on-line scanning applications for warehouse management and production control. One of the key benefits is that product is scanned onto and off the main packing lines for recording accurate, traceable use effortlessly. The progress in the packhouse is available to management as it happens, no matter how complex the mix of consignments and products.

J O Sims supplies a variety of fresh, frozen and fruit ingredients to all market sectors throughout the UK and the Continent. In addition to traditional fresh fruit such as apples, cherries and grapes, the company also offers a range of exotic fruit including pineapple, kiwi, dates and berries.



Prophet MD Paul Stofberg and Farsoft chief Freddie Roux.

Symbiosis at work

The symbiotic working relationship between Prophet and Farsoft Information Technology has had significant impact on the South African fruit industry. While Prophet concentrates on its QXprophet software for exporters, Farsoft operates at farm level with its ViTrax pack house information system.

JD van Wyk, Prophet director, explained that the referral business between the two companies worked extremely well. "Not only do our technologies integrate seamlessly, but

we have the same business ethic."

Farsoft was established in 1996, offering the integrated ViTrax data capturing and management tool. ViTrax follows fresh produce from delivery to a packhouse throughout the packing process - up to the receipt of final payments for the shipped produce. Based in Riebeeck West in the Western Cape, Farsoft is headed by Freddie Roux, who spends most of his time on system analysis and design, technology research, logistics management and building client and industry relations.



Raymond Nunes

Getting a small business network up and running, plus choosing the proper components for both hardware and software can be a daunting task. Good news

is Microsoft's Windows Small Business Server 2003 offers everything a small business needs to connect to the Internet, establish email, share files and printers, send and receive faxes and so on. In short: it's "a complete and affordable network solution with technology that simplifies daily small business IT operations and management. It provides many networking features used by large companies, without the complexity typically associated with server technology".

The product was designed with small business needs in mind. It has good installation and deployment tools, simple and elegant management capabilities, excellent backup and restoration tools and strong security-related functionality.

Installation requires a solid understanding of networking, protocols and security settings. If lacking in-house expertise, rather hire a consultant for this.

Windows Small Business Server 2003 provides for up to 75 workstations and is available in Windows SBS 2003 Premium Edition. The latter is ideal for small businesses with more demanding IT needs, such as data-intensive line-of-business applications. It's built on Windows Server 2003 and Exchange Server 2003 technology and adds SQL Server 2000 together with Internet Security and Acceleration (ISA) Server.

With this server solution you can rest assured that data is secure, untap new productivity from desktops, empower employees to do more and connect to customers like never before.

In a world where small businesses must increasingly do more with less, Windows Small Business Server is a sound investment. The feature set is incredibly

Geared to serve

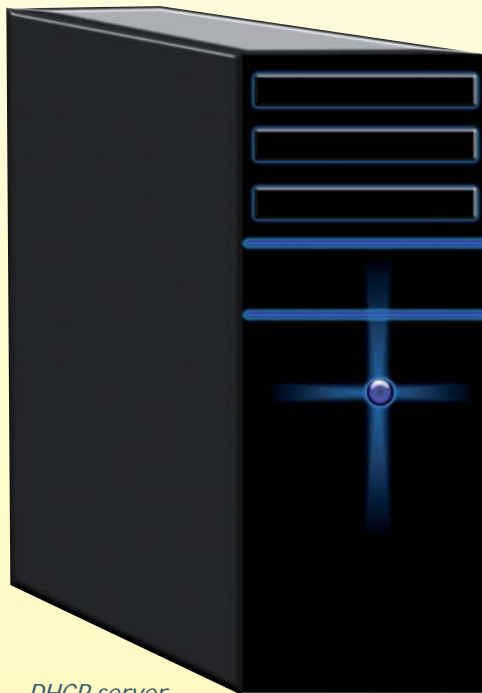
by Raymond Nunes,
Prophet SA IT manager

robust and as your business grows, you can simply tap into the features required when needed.

SERVER ROLES

Domain controller

Domain controllers store directory data and manage communication between users and domains, including user logon processes, authentication and directory searches. After configuring the domain controller role, you can store directory data and make it available to network users and administrators. Active Directory stores information about user accounts (eg names, passwords, phone numbers and so on), and enables other authorised users on the same network to access this information.



DHCP server

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) is an IP standard designed to reduce the complexity of administering address configurations by using a server computer to centrally manage IP addresses and other related configuration details used on your network. If you plan to perform multicast address allocation and obtain client IP address and related configuration parameters dynamically, configure this server as a DHCP server.

Microsoft Exchange Server

This is a messaging and collaborative software product developed by Microsoft. It's part of the Microsoft Servers line of server products and is widely used by enterprises using Microsoft infrastructure solutions. Exchange's major features comprise electronic mail, calendaring, contacts and tasks and support for mobile- and web-based access to information, as well as supporting data storage.

File server

File servers provide and manage access to files. If planning to use disk space on this computer to store, manage and share information such as files and network-accessible applications, configure this computer as a file server. After configuring the file server role, you can use disk quotas on volumes formatted with the NTFS file system to monitor and limit the amount of disk space available to individual users. You also can specify whether to log an event when a user exceeds the specified disk space limit or warning level (the point at which a user is nearing his or her quota limit).

SQL Server 2005

This comprehensive, integrated data management and analysis software enables organisations to reliably manage mission-critical information and confidently run today's increasingly complex business applications. SQL Server 2005 allows companies to gain greater insight from their business information, achieving faster results.

SQL Server 2005 is a powerful tool for turning enterprise data into competitive advantage. Industry-leading support for enterprise data management, developer productivity and business intelligence include the functionality customers expect from an enterprise-class database management system.

Information:

[http://technet2.microsoft.com/windowsserver/en/library/109b5425-8128-4272-8e58-6c85f6953f761033.aspx?mfr=true;](http://technet2.microsoft.com/windowsserver/en/library/109b5425-8128-4272-8e58-6c85f6953f761033.aspx?mfr=true)
<http://www.gaebler.com/Windows-Small-Business-Server-2003-Review.htm>