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## Microsoft Windows 2000 Arabic Edition released to manufacturing

النسخة العربية

Localized version of next generation computing platform will ship to customers early March 2000

**3rd February, 2000**

**Dubai**

Microsoft GEM has today announced the release to manufacturing (RTM) of the localized Arabic version of the Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Professional operating system. Following closely on the RTM of the soon-to-be-launched international version of the platform, Windows 2000 Arabic Edition has once again broken records for the shortest development time for a fully localized Arabic language version of an international product.

"We have again been able to reduce the 'delta' between international and Arabic versions of our products, and to deliver a totally localized Arabic version of a key Microsoft product within six weeks of the international product shipping," said Murad Lakhdar, product marketing manager at Microsoft GEM.

A key area where the powerful linguistic features of Windows 2000 are set to make a huge difference to users is the Internet, where the multilingual nature of the platform makes it easy for web page developers to port their international language web pages to Arabic and other languages. "If you want e-commerce capabilities, then you can talk to the world with Windows 2000," said Haider Salloum, business systems division product manager at Microsoft GEM. "The code base is the same, the software is the same, but the user's language of choice can be supported."

"My colleagues here at Microsoft GEM, together with our Arabic language development teams based at Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond have worked closely with our core development teams on Windows 2000 Arabic Edition. Windows 2000 is based on the Unicode standard, and brings new levels of Arabic support to computer users around the world. The localized Arabic Edition of Windows 2000 extends that support to the interface, help menus and other product interface features," said Salloum. "For Microsoft GEM's customers, Windows 2000 represents a landmark movement forwards in the provision of 'out of the box' Arabic language support on a global scale, together with the option to deploy a totally localized version for user environments where the main language will be Arabic."

With over 1,500,000 Arabic words localized for Windows 2000 Arabic Edition, the software has been tested extensively in the region, with over 600 beta testers giving their feedback on the product to program managers based in Dubai, UAE. This information has then been shared with the Arabic language development team, based in Redmond, USA. "The beta process has been a vital element of the development of Windows 2000 globally," said Lakhdar, "and it has been equally important to us in the work we have been carrying out on the localized Arabic version."

The Windows 2000 platform, successor to Windows NT 4.0, is an ideal foundation for the next generation of business computing

and addresses the full -range of customers' computing needs. Windows 2000 incorporates advanced support for notebook computer users, as well as bringing powerful new features to desktop computers through to high-end clustered servers. The operating system helps companies Internet-enable their business with a reliable, manageable infrastructure that's optimized for emerging hardware.

**Availability**

General availability of Windows 2000 Professional, Windows 2000 Server and Windows 2000 Advanced Server begins on February 17th, 2000, with the Arabic Edition to be available broadly to users by March 2000.

**About Microsoft Corporation.**

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers. The company offers a wide range of products and services for business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing every day.

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Microsoft opened its Dubai-based Middle East headquarters office in 1991, since then subsidiaries have opened in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Microsoft GEM is responsible for the company's business in Pakistan, Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan, Cyprus and Malta. In 1999, Microsoft opened offices in Lebanon and Kuwait and announced it would soon open new offices in Pakistan.

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