



**A High Level Comparative Analysis
Microsoft Commerce Server 2002
vs.
Microsoft Commerce Server 2000**

**Terrace® Consulting, Inc.
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***A Comparative Analysis: Microsoft Commerce Server 2002 vs.
Microsoft Commerce Server 2000***

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Commerce Server 2002 vs. Commerce Server 2000

Microsoft Commerce Server 2002 has just been released to the general public in May of 2002. Terrace has been working with this both this latest version of Microsoft's e-Commerce Platform (since mid 2001) as well as Microsoft Commerce Server 2000. We have prepared this quick, high-level analysis to assist our customers with analyzing the benefits of this next version of this powerful platform.

The Microsoft Commerce Server platform is a comprehensive e-business platform that includes features for different users: developers, system administrators, and business managers. In addition, Commerce Server is available in three editions, which provide different features and scalability options.

1. Executive Summary

Commerce Server 2002 is more of a refinement of Commerce Server 2000 than a completely new version. The listing below includes some of the major highlights that the new version offers:

- *API – Almost completely backward compatible to CS2K. Some previously undocumented objects are now exposed and documented. No need to discover them in the solution sites!*
- *.Net Framework – The Good: it's .NET! Some really useful features are now built into the framework that required custom functions to do before. Fairly well thought out and better than their COM equivalents. The initial application configuration finally makes sense and completely cleans up a bloated global.asa. VS.NET integration is the best yet with full project creation support and in-place editing modules that required BizDesk before. The Bad: all built on an Interop. Performance will probably be on par with COM, but all the code will have a future. Unfortunately most of the classes are sealed so wrappers will still be implemented. The runtime will probably stay the same in future versions with the Interop going away. Verdict: It's a brave new world! Let's .NET.*
- *Virtual Catalogs – Removes the silliness of the custom catalog model limitations. Worth implementing if needed.*
- *BizDesk – It's still BizDesk... grumble. However, multilanguage is built in and a few nice features were added. Slightly updated UI. New security module goes beyond module level security and goes all the way to field level, though more complex than it needs to. Still, wrong model for Enterprise prime time, so don't customize too much. I still vote it the most complex ASP programming you'll ever do.*
- *Campaigns – A lot more flexible than ever before: multiple discounts per item now possible combined with order level discounts to boot. Move over free shipping!*

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vs

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- *Availability – Now certified to run on DataCenter, you can achieve 5 nine's for sure. Check out the matrix chart below!*

2. Introduction

We have captured a blend of the functions and features available in both Commerce Server versions (2000 and 2002) and underlined the portions that are new to Commerce Server 2002.

You use Commerce Server to build scalable and highly available business-to-consumer (B2C) and business-to-business (B2B) site applications.

Commerce Server Components

Commerce Server components are categorized into five systems. These systems provide the critical e-commerce infrastructure needed to build an effective online business.

- **Product Catalog System.** Manage millions of products, create multilingual and multicurrency catalogs, and make it convenient for users to find the products and services they need.
- **Profiling System.** Profile and manage your customers and trading partners for site usage authentication and advanced targeting and personalization.
- **Business Analytics System.** Analyze site effectiveness by running Commerce Server reports, or by creating your own custom reports. Provide intelligent cross-sell capabilities, and dynamically recommend products to users as they navigate your site.
- **Targeting System.** Personalize the buying experience with one-to-one marketing and targeted merchandising that increases the ordering convenience and relevance of content for your customers.
- **Business Processing Pipeline System.** Tailor your order and merchandising processes to fit your requirements today, while being able to easily modify them over time, as your business grows and changes. *Pipelines are still COM only. You will still need C++ ATL skills to maintain performance in new components.*

Commerce Server Tools

You use the following tools to develop and manage a Commerce Server site.

- **Commerce Server .NET Application Framework.** A framework that enables you to create .NET-based Commerce Server applications using the new features of the .NET Framework. The Commerce Server .NET application framework provides two new layers to the Commerce Server platform: the Base Class Library and the Common Language Runtime Interop Layer. These layers allow ASP.NET code to run Commerce Server services and systems. Using Visual Studio .NET, you can access Commerce Server features and tools to build Commerce Server applications. The .NET application framework offers many benefits including greatly enhanced performance, scalability, and security.
- **Solution Sites.** Development reference sites that provide an integrated set of features included in Commerce Server. The Solution Sites provide the following

features: multilingual, multicurrency, merchandising, catalog display, customer service, and order capture and receipt.

Because the Solution Sites provide comprehensive e-commerce functionality, you can use them as a starting point for developing your own Web sites, and, when you are ready, add functionality that is specific to your business. *The Solution Sites are mostly the same as before. Once you know the product, you'll probably want to start from scratch on most projects. I've reviewed preliminary versions of the .NET solution site and unfortunately, it's awful.*

- **Commerce Server Site Packager.** A deployment tool that you use to package your site and its applications and resources into a single file, and then move that file to another environment. You use it to package your Commerce Server site (including the IIS metabase settings), file system, resources from the Administration database, and SQL Server databases into a single file. You also use it to unpack the Commerce Server site (or portions of it) onto other computers.
- **Commerce Server Business Desk.** An extensible tool that business managers use to manage and analyze their Web sites. For example, you use Business Desk features to update pricing information in your catalogs, target new advertisements to specific users, and then run reports to measure how these changes affect site productivity.

Business Desk applications are provided in Solution Site packages. After you install Commerce Server, you must unpack a Solution Site to install a Business Desk application.

3. *What's New*

Commerce Server 2002 offers significant, incremental functionality in the following areas:

- **Multinational site support.** Today, most e-businesses are global; many either do business with many countries or serve a multicultural customer base through centralized Web applications. Effectively meeting this challenge permeates the entire business process and involves more than just presenting data in multiple languages or currencies. Commerce Server 2002 provides multinational support across all core systems—from catalogs and user profiles to campaigns and analytics—enabling businesses to manage a global network of customers. Commerce Server 2002 enables businesses to offer customers and partners their choice of language and currency, deliver locale-specific catalogs and merchandising campaigns, and supply multilingual search capabilities. Commerce Server 2002 Business Analytics System also supports reporting by locale and currency for multinational organizations.
- **Stronger B2B capabilities.** Commerce Server 2002 now offers major advancements to support the complex requirements of managing multiple sales channels, catalog syndication, and supplier-catalog aggregation. Virtual catalogs enable businesses to create market-specific or customer-specific catalogs, providing the greatest flexibility when delivering customers a custom view of product offerings. Commerce Server 2002 also makes it easier than ever to exchange or to request user information and catalog information. In addition, it is simpler to interoperate with back-end systems through tighter integration with Microsoft BizTalk® Server for sending or receiving a variety of documents and messages such as catalogs, orders, and order status reports. This version of Commerce Server streamlines the catalog interchange process by supporting incremental exports, catalog deletions, import and export streams, and multilanguage exports. Through the facilitation of upstream supplier catalog aggregation as well as downstream catalog syndication, Commerce Server 2002 provides businesses with the greatest reach to both suppliers and buyers.
- **Enhanced merchandising capabilities.** Microsoft has worked closely with enterprise retail customers to incorporate their requirements for complex merchandising. Commerce Server 2002 Campaign Manager now supports applying multiple discounts to an item or order as well as complex interaction policies to provide the greatest flexibility for merchandising managers. All campaigns can now be targeted to specific locales and offered in multiple languages, enabling e-businesses to push overstocked items in specific geographic locales. The Business Analytics System also includes powerful new enhancements to its data-mining capabilities. The Predictor feature adds four new models that predict purchasing and browsing affinity, demographic characteristics, and advertising relevance to enable real-time product recommendations as well as increased click-through rates for online advertising campaigns.

Commerce Server 2002 meets the needs of the largest volume and mission-critical applications with:

- **Greater scalability.** E-commerce sites measure scalability in various ways. Some measure the number of customers against concurrent transactions, the number of products in the catalog against the number of different catalogs, or even the size of the log files loaded into the data warehouse against the number of knowledge workers that can concurrently manage the business. Commerce Server 2002 has been tested and is supported at the highest scale points. Commerce Server 2002 is supported and certified on Microsoft Windows® Datacenter Server for maximum scalability and flexibility. The caching and performance optimizations in Commerce Server 2002 are also built in to take full advantage of the caching and performance optimizations of Windows and Microsoft SQL Server™.
- **Improved manageability.** Change is both necessary and inevitable for customer-facing e-commerce applications. Therefore, it's critical to empower both the business and technical managers of the site with tools to respond quickly to changing customer demands and system environments. For business managers who manage day-to-day business processes, Commerce Server 2002 has improved the creation and management of user profiles, catalogs, and catalog data. Site administrators now have new tools that enable users to sign on once for several sites and facilitate data warehouse creation, import management, and business user security management.
- **Stronger security.** Commerce Server 2002 delivers stronger user security in two primary areas: the Profile System and the Business Desk Security module. The Profile System incorporates one-way hashing and asymmetrical data encryption to protect sensitive user data when stored by the system. *Both one-way hashing and asymmetrical data encryption require complete customization.* The new Business Desk Security module enables refined role-based security down to the task and field level. Beyond new security features, a security deployment guide to help customers use best practices to implement secure sites on Commerce Server 2002 is included in the core product documentation.
- **Proven high-availability architecture.** No site should turn away a customer because its online doors are closed. Only the highest levels of availability help to develop and retain customer loyalty. Commerce Server 2002 fully takes advantage of the power of Windows clustering technologies to support failover and deliver superior availability. All key features in Commerce Server 2002 were tested extensively at enterprise-level scale and loads to ensure they operate and recover under all common failure conditions. Additionally, once all long-running tasks in Commerce Server 2002 have been configured—such as the Direct Mailer and the Data Warehouse Data Transformation Services (DTS) Tasks—they will restart if your session is interrupted.

Commerce Server 2002 bridges the gap between COM/ASP and the Microsoft .NET-based development environment to empower developers with the greatest flexibility in building e-business solutions, including:

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- **Smooth upgrade from Commerce Server 2000.** Backward-compatible application programming interfaces (APIs) help to simplify upgrading from Commerce Server 2000 to Commerce Server 2002. The only area that requires a level of migration is the Business Data Warehouse and the Catalog System. Data migration tools are provided to enable the smoothest possible migration for customers. Upgrading to Commerce Server 2002 enables existing customers to take advantage of the performance gains and security improvements that are immediately realized with little or no site modification, and, over time, take full advantage of the incremental functionality available.
Note: Customers moving to Microsoft ASP.NET might need to migrate customizations separately as would be required for any other migration from a Component Object Model (COM) environment to a .NET-based development environment.
 - **Microsoft .NET Framework and ASP.NET support.** .NET Framework brings the .NET-based developer experience to Commerce Server while taking advantage of the years of experience that have gone into developing the key subsystems in Commerce Server 2002. Commerce Server 2002 applications created with ASP.NET benefit from improved reliability, performance, and scalability. The Commerce Server Base Class Library optimizes the .NET Framework programming model to provide developers with a consistent, more intuitive experience while developing their e-business applications. Developers also enjoy greater productivity through the use of Web server controls, which require fewer lines of code and greater manageability through the separation of code and content. *Most of the above relates to the benefits of ASP.NET, not CS2K2 specifically.*
 - **Visual Studio .NET integration** Developers get a more unified development experience when building or extending their online business solutions with Commerce Server 2002. All Commerce Server tools and resources are now integrated with the Microsoft Visual Studio® .NET integrated development environment (IDE) to provide every Visual Studio developer with a single, familiar development environment where creating a new Commerce Server-based application is as easy as choosing **New Commerce Project** in the **File** menu. Together, Commerce Server 2002 and Visual Studio .NET are more than just an e-commerce server and a great development tool. They form an e-commerce programming environment where powerful XML Web services enable online business solutions to be built with fewer lines of code than ever before. Commerce Server 2002 complements Visual Studio .NET by extending its Rapid Application Development (RAD) capabilities into enterprise e-business. *The integration here is pretty good.*
 - **.NET-based sample site.** As part of the Software Development Kit (SDK) in Commerce Server 2002, the new international retail site demonstrates many of the new capabilities of Commerce Server 2002, which is built on ASP.NET-managed code. The source code for the sample site is included so that developers can modify the code to fit their site's specific needs. The sample site delivers over 35 .NET-based multilingual controls that support personalization, account management, currency conversion, multiple authentication methods, multilingual

and multicurrency capabilities, BizTalk Adapters for the interchange of orders and catalogs, and simple ways to make specific changes to a site's user interface. *I have not had a chance to review the RTM release yet. However, the former releases were awful. Very little source code was provided and it was written in VB.NET. No thanks.*

- **Flexibility.** Development flexibility means integrating with internal and external systems and starting small and growing over time. It also means taking advantage of in-house skill sets or being able to easily find a partner with the skills you need. Because Commerce Server 2002 supports both classic COM/ASP development as well as .NET-based development, developers have the flexibility to build solutions using the tools that best suit their needs for today and supporting those tools as they evolve over time. Commerce Server 2002 also offers greater modularity so that customers can deploy the key components they require to fill out their e-business infrastructure, enabling the fastest time to benefit while using existing technology investments. In addition, all data across Commerce Server 2002 subsystems is supported in XML to enable seamless integration with BizTalk Server and to facilitate interoperability with customer, partner, and internal systems.

Commerce Server 2002 now offers more competitive pricing and licensing across key customer markets:

- **Mid-market customers and smaller-scale deployments.** Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition offers the richness and flexibility of Commerce Server 2002 without a large investment. Regardless of customer size, the Standard Edition supports high-availability architectures. The Standard Edition is the primary offering for the mid-market supplier enablement scenario where there's a need for sophisticated catalog management and order capture and integration, but where transaction volumes are lower and the need for sophisticated business analytics is limited.
- **Large-scale deployments.** Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition is appropriate for sophisticated and large-scale deployments as well as for sites that require advanced analytics. Enterprise Edition is the premiere offering for developing a dynamic Web presence and online retail business.

4. Features

We have captured a blend of the functions and features available in both Commerce Server versions (2000 and 2002) and underlined the portions that are new to Commerce Server 2002.

Commerce Server 2002 features function together seamlessly, enabling you to provide merchandising, catalog display, customer service, and order management and receipt.

The following table provides an overview of the Commerce Server features.

Commerce Server Feature	Description
Product Catalog System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and update catalogs of products to sell. • <u>Create multilingual catalogs.</u> • <u>Create multicurrency catalogs.</u> • Import catalogs of products from other data sources in XML or CSV format. • Export catalogs in XML format. • <u>Export changes to a catalog since a certain date.</u> • Add integrated search capabilities, making it easy for users to find what they need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category search. Browse by product category. • Free-text search. Find products by full or partial name or property. • Property search. Find products based on a property value, such as Price < \$10. • Specification search. Refine the search request until the product is found. • <u>Build virtual catalogs with special pricing for groups of users. Replaces 'custom' catalogs.</u> • Apply discounts to products. • Identify which products are selling by running Commerce Server reports. • Exchange catalog data with vendors by using Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000. <i>Still requires the same customization effort.</i>
Profiling System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage millions of users and organizations. • Enable users to manage their own profile information and to research the status of their order. <i>Customization or solution site code.</i> • Build profiles for any business-related entity, such as users or organizations. <i>True, however if you add entity's then you must also customize BizDesk and the</i>

data warehouse. Same if you modify the existing entities.

- Determine what information to collect about the users visiting your site.
- Determine what information to display to specific users, such as virtual catalogs.
- Analyze profile information to determine who is visiting your site.
- Create target expressions to match content to users.
- Create advertising, discount, and direct mail campaigns to target specific user groups.

Business Analytics System

- Import large amounts of site usage data collected from different data sources into the Commerce Server Data Warehouse, and manage the data.
- Analyze site effectiveness by running Commerce Server reports, or by creating your own custom reports.
- Identify specific groups of users by running a report, and then export the results to a list. Use the list in a direct mail campaign, or to update the properties of the users so you can target merchandise or content to them.
- Review collected data to identify hidden trends and new customer segments, and to view the properties of the segments.
- Provide intelligent cross-sell capabilities, and dynamically recommend products to users as they navigate your site.

Targeting System

- Personalize the buying experience with targeted merchandising.
- Deliver the optimal content for a given user in a given context.
- Create, analyze, and manage personalized and targeted discounts, and direct marketing and advertising campaigns.
- Add predictive capabilities to your Web site.
- Target ads or discounts to users of a specific profile. For example, you can target ads to female users who visit your site three times a week, and who have purchased three or more products.
- Create and schedule campaigns for customers who compete within the same industry. The competing ads are never shown on the same page.

- Charge your advertising customers based on the number of ad requests or clicks they want their ads to receive.
- Charge your advertising customers based upon the page on which they want their ad to appear.

Business Processing
Pipeline System

- Customize your order, targeting, and merchandising processes.
- Define and link together the stages of a business process.

5. Commerce Server Editions

The following editions of Microsoft Commerce Server 2002 are currently available.

- **I. Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition**

Standard Edition is designed for developing and managing medium-scale Web sites. Standard Edition scales to:

- **Two processors.**
- **Two Web servers per application.** It is recommended that you deploy no more than **10** applications on a single IIS Web server. These applications can be contained in a single site, or distributed across many sites.
- **Two Commerce Server applications per site:** one Business Desk application and one non-Business Desk application. For example, you might install the Retail Solution Site application, or a non-Commerce application, and then the Business Desk application.
- **Ten sites per Data Warehouse.**
- **Ten sites per Profiles database.**

Standard Edition provides basic analytic features that enable you to analyze data metrics for Web usage and product sales.

- **II. Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition**

Enterprise Edition is designed for developing and managing large-scale or high-traffic Web sites. Enterprise Edition can scale up to 32 processors, and as many Web servers and Commerce Server applications as your hardware supports.

It is recommended that you deploy no more than 10 applications on a single IIS Web server. These applications can be contained in a single site, or distributed across many sites. In addition, a single Data Warehouse and Profiles database support up to 10 sites each.

Enterprise Edition is also designed to support sites that need advanced analytics. It provides the ability to analyze user profile data and marketing campaigns, and then use the results of your analysis to target content on your site. The advanced analysis features support the ability to provide real-time recommendations to users visiting your site.

- **III. Commerce Server 2002 Developer Edition**

Developer Edition is the commerce solution for developing large-scale, multilingual, highly available sites. The Developer Edition includes the same features as the Enterprise Edition, however, it cannot be used in a production environment, and it has a four-processor limitation.

The Developer Edition includes extensive documentation for developers, as well as an extended set of samples.

Using a Combination of Standard Edition and Enterprise Edition

You may choose to create an environment that uses Commerce Server Standard Edition, Enterprise Edition, and Developer Edition. This configuration may be useful if, for example, you purchase Developer Edition first, then Standard Edition, and then later decide you want the additional functionality provided in Enterprise Edition.

Following are the supported deployment scenarios using multiple different editions of Commerce Server. Other configurations are not supported.

- Standard Edition on one or two Web servers for one Commerce Server application, and Standard Edition for the Data Warehouse.
- Standard Edition on one or two Web servers for one Commerce Server application, and Enterprise Edition for the Data Warehouse.
- Enterprise Edition on Web servers, and Enterprise Edition for the Data Warehouse.
- Developer Edition on Web servers, and Standard Edition or Enterprise Edition for the Data Warehouse.
- Developer Edition for Web servers, and Developer Edition for Data Warehouse. You cannot use this configuration in a production environment.

Standard Edition and Enterprise Edition sites cannot share the same Data Warehouse.

6. Comparison Matrix

This topic summarizes the features supported by Microsoft Commerce Server 2000, Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition, and Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition. Information about Commerce Server 2000 is provided for comparison purposes.

High Availability Features

This table compares support for high availability features in the editions of Commerce Server.

Feature	Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition	Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition	Commerce Server 2000
Very high availability	Yes	Yes	No
Predictor and Direct Mailer are Windows Clustering cluster-aware	Yes	Yes	No
Predictor and Direct Mailer support failover to all cluster nodes	Yes	Yes	No
Predictor and Direct Mailer can install on 2 nodes on Windows 2000 Advanced Server	Yes	Yes	No
Predictor and Direct Mailer can install on 2, 3, and 4 nodes on Windows 2000 Datacenter Server	Yes	Yes	No
Run-time components survive failover of dependent Windows services, application server, or underlying data stores	Yes	Yes	No
An order queuing sample in the SDK, showing how to process orders offline, a high-availability best practice	Yes	Yes	No

Authentication Features

This table compares support for Authentication features in the editions of Commerce Server.

Feature	Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition	Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition	Commerce Server 2000
Exchange 2000 Outlook Web Access (OWA) Basic Authentication	Yes	Yes	No
Windows Integrated Security <i>This refers to database connection strings. I DO NOT recommend using integrated security. Nightmare to manage and not all objects support it when running the db servers separately from the web servers (almost all installs)</i>	Yes	Yes	No
Allows old profile cookies to be decrypted <i>Customization</i>	Yes	Yes	No
Rolling key encryption <i>Customization</i>	Yes	Yes	No
Maintains visit history in the Data Warehouse	Yes	Yes	No
Cookieless shopping	Yes	Yes	Yes
Provides granular access control using access control lists (ACLs)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supports custom login pages for	Yes	Yes	Yes

retrieving Windows
credentials

URL case correction	Yes	Yes	Yes
Web farm environments	Yes	Yes	Yes
ASP-intrinsics	Yes	Yes	Yes
Provides the option of using Active Directory and/or SQL Server for storing user profiles	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access level control	Yes	Yes	Yes
Accepts security credentials from user	Yes	Yes	Yes

Administration Features

This table compares support for Administration features in the editions of Commerce Server.

Feature	Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition	Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition	Commerce Server 2000
Supports unpacking a site to remote servers	Yes	Yes	No
Allows host headers and multiple identities to be stored in the Administration database for the Web site	Yes	Yes	No
Integrates with Content Management Server 2000 and later editions <i>Don't ask.</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes (only Content Management Server 2000)
Integrates with BizTalk Server 2000 and later editions	Yes	Yes	Yes

Business Desk Features

This table compares support for Business Desk features in the editions of Commerce Server.

Feature	Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition	Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition	Commerce Server 2000
Style sheets for different themes, including high contrast for accessibility	Yes	Yes	No
Access control for individual Business Desk modules	Yes	Yes	Yes
Security settings for Business Desk tasks	Yes	Yes	No
Security settings for managing catalogs	Yes	Yes	No
Security settings for editing catalog properties	Yes	Yes	No
Security settings for managing catalog categories	Yes	Yes	No
Security settings for managing profile properties	Yes	Yes	No

Business Analytics Features

This table compares support for Business Analytics features in the editions of Commerce Server.

Feature	Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition	Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition	Commerce Server 2000
Stand-alone Business Analytics installation	Yes	Yes	No
Data Warehouse Import Wizard	Yes	Yes	No

Remote access to OLAP cubes (requires SQL Server 2000 Enterprise Edition)	Yes	Yes	No
New report creation supported <i>Note that a few of these reports are not available in the Standard edition, but were available in CS2K.</i>	Yes	No	No
User profile reports	Yes	No	Yes
Marketing campaign reports	Yes	No	Yes
Real-time recommendations	Yes	No	No
Exports reports as lists to the Profiling System or Targeting System	Yes	No	Yes
Groups published reports	Yes	Yes	No
Report drill-through capability	Yes	Yes	No
Across-domain reporting	Yes	Yes	No
Fast report population from Analysis Services	Yes	Yes	No
Prediction models to analyze usage behavior	Yes	No	Yes
Segment models for analyzing population segments	Yes	No	Yes
Affinity lists	Yes	No	No
Exports Segment model as list	Yes	No	No

Data Warehouse Features

This table compares support for Data Warehouse features in the editions of Commerce Server.

Feature	Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition	Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition	Commerce Server 2000
Includes Data Warehouse schema diagram	Yes	No	Yes
Sets log file restart parameters	Yes	Yes	No
Sets connection retry parameters for all DTS tasks	Yes	Yes	No
Deletes imported logs on a rotating time basis	Yes	Yes	No
Runs a DTS task for all sites in a Data Warehouse (for relevant DTS tasks)	Yes	Yes	No
Runs a DTS task for a single site in a Data Warehouse	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rebuilds prediction/segment models automatically	Yes	No	No
Supports scripts for DTS tasks	Yes	No	No
Schedules DTS packages	Yes	Yes	Yes
Displays the import progress data	Yes	Yes	No
Uses log file masking	Yes	Yes	No
Imports cookieless user data	Yes	Yes	No
Imports Unicode characters	Yes	Yes	No

Important for true multilingual sites.

Imports UTF-8 and Unicode log files. <i>Important for multilingual .NET server installations.</i>	Yes	Yes	No
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Product Catalog System Features

This table compares support for Product Catalog System features in the editions of Commerce Server.

Feature	Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition	Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition	Commerce Server 2000
*Scales to 10,000 catalogs (tested limit)	Yes	Yes	No
*Scales to 5 million products per catalog (tested limit)	Yes	Yes	No
Multicurrency pricing	Yes	Yes	No
Multilingual catalogs	Yes	Yes	No
Virtual catalogs	Yes	Yes	No
Custom catalogs	No (replaced by virtual catalogs)	No (replaced by virtual catalogs)	Yes
Catalog sets	Yes	Yes	Yes
Aggregated content from multiple catalogs	Yes	Yes	No
Validate the content of an XML catalog file without importing it	Yes	Yes	No
Import and export of catalog item deletions	Yes	Yes	No
Exports changes to a catalog since a certain date	Yes	Yes	No
Creates relationships between products across catalogs	Yes	Yes	No
Exchanges catalog data with vendors by	Yes	Yes	Yes

using Microsoft

BizTalk Server 2000

User-defined catalog attributes and user-defined property attributes	Yes	Yes	No
Searches within a category	Yes	Yes	No
SQL Text data types for products (not subject to the 8 KB/row limit)	Yes	Yes	No
Can perform queries joined with external tables	Yes	Yes	No

The configuration of 10,000 catalogs with 5 million products in each catalog has not been tested.

Profiling System Features

This table compares support for Profiling System features in the editions of Commerce Server.

Feature	Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition	Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition	Commerce Server 2000
Scales to 10 million unique users in Active Directory <i>Requires an extensive AD infrastructure</i>	Yes	Yes	No
Scales to 25 million unique users in SQL Server	Yes	Yes	No
Profile definition design interface	Yes	Yes	Yes
Profile editing <i>Generic for non-UserObject or Organization entities.</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes (limited to Users and Organizations)
Site term editing	Yes	Yes	Yes
Active Directory group management	Yes	Yes	No

using Business Desk

Multi-valued profiles	Yes	Yes	No
Multi-valued site terms	Yes	Yes	No
Embedded profile editing	Yes	Yes	No
<i>Might not work as expected.</i>			
Generic profile editing	Yes	Yes	No
Import and export profile schema	Yes	Yes	No
<i>CS2K can do it programmatically.</i>			

Targeting System Features

This table compares support for Targeting System features in the editions of Commerce Server.

Feature	Commerce Server 2002 Enterprise Edition	Commerce Server 2002 Standard Edition	Commerce Server 2000
Multilingual ads and discounts	Yes	Yes	No
Applies multiple discounts to an item or order, and controls the order in which the discounts are applied	Yes	Yes	No
Applies dollar-discount and percentage discounts to an item or an order, and controls the order in which the discounts are applied.	Yes	Yes	No
Flags whether an item can be discounted	Yes	Yes	No
Direct Mailer can be deployed on a server that does not have	Yes	Yes	No

SQL Server installed

Direct Mailer can be deployed as a highly available clustered resource that takes advantage of Windows Clustering	Yes	Yes	No
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Direct Mailer survives transient failures	Yes	Yes	No
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Integrated authentication for Direct Mailer in SQL Server	Yes	Yes	No
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Commerce Server 2002

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Commerce Server 2000

Please note: Much of the verbiage in this analysis has been pulled directly from the Microsoft Commerce Server Help file and Commerce Server web site. Terrace has added comments as part of the analysis.

For Further information Please Contact:

*Terrace Consulting, Inc.
436 14th Street, Suite 500
Oakland, Ca. 94612*

Tel: (510) 836-3400

Fax: (510) 836-3401

e-Mail: Info@Terrace.com

Web: www.terrace.com