

Comparison between Viapoint and Microsoft WinFS (May 2005)

Area	Viapoint	WinFS
Technology		
OS Required	Windows 95, NT, XP, 2000, 2003, Longhorn	Windows XP, 2003, Longhorn
Meta-data stored in embedded SQL database	Yes	Yes
SQL database	MSDE (Shipping)	Yukon (Not available)
Virtual folders/central theme	Yes	Yes
Built-in schemas for common data	Yes	Yes
Synchronization with file system or application changes	Yes	Yes
Desktop search integration	Yes	Yes
Management of database content stored within applications	Yes	Unknown
Application footprint	10.5 MB download including database	Unknown
API/SDK availability	Planned Q1 2006	Available today
Development language / Platform	.NET	.NET
Business Model		
General Availability	Today	Planned 2007/2008
Target user	Business desktop user, OEM developer	Software ISV/Developer
Data schema focus	Contacts, Companies, RSS	All files/objects
Delivery of client/technology	Free core system through web download	Included in operating system
Adapter licensing	Some free, some paid available for order directly through Viapoint web site	Available through individual application providers
Service and training	Hands-on/Direct contact with management	Channels and MSDN
Adapter development	Development of adapters by Viapoint to key applications and ISVs for niche applications	Adapter development to Microsoft applications and ISVs for 3rd party applications
Application development	Applications produced by Viapoint and product and solutions staff initially later in conjunction with ISVs	Applications produced by ISVs
OEM licensing	Available as an OEM application platform for desktop organization for a license fee per user or adapter. OEM licensing free for adapters to free applications.	Available to ISVs for free as a component of Longhorn once released
Data enhancement/Augmentation	Active integration projects for adapters to enhance and organize data through Internet services	Unknown
Partnership focus	Openly connect with best of breed emerging desktop technologies (e.g. Google Desktop Search, Skype, Yahoo, MSOutlook, etc.)	Focus first on Microsoft product compatibility. Recruit partners to utilize new OS features

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Virtual folder data model		
Each item available through multiple folders	Yes	Yes
Synchronization/Monitoring of file system changes	Yes	Yes
Extensibility for adding custom schema or business logic	Planned	Yes
System for tagging of items to organize content	Yes	Yes
Virtual connection through meta-data between item and folder	Yes	Yes
Items that are files remain in standard NTFS data locations	Yes	Yes
Items that are not files are indexed/available (database records, objects - e.g. email items, contacts)	Yes	Yes
Built-in Schemas		
Calendar	Yes	Yes
Email	Yes	Yes
Contact	Yes	Yes
Company	Yes	Unknown
Web site/URL	Yes	Unknown
RSS feed/News	Yes	Unknown
Chat	Yes	Unknown
Music	No	Yes
Photos	No	Yes
Media/Video	No	Yes

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Adapters		
MSOutlook	Yes	Yes
RSS Feed	Yes	Unknown
File System	Yes	Yes
Chat (Yahoo!M, Trillian, etc.)	Planned	Unknown
VoIP (Skype, Net2Phone)	Planned	Unknown
Social bookmarking/tagging (Technorati, Furl, etc.)	Planned	Unknown
Blogging/Social blogging (Blogger, Six Apart)	Planned	Unknown
Private RSS News Sources (e.g. RocketInfo)	Planned	Unknown
CRM (ACT!, MSCRM, SalesLogix)	Planned	Unknown
User Interface		
Centralized management console	Yes	Unknown
Launch item through native application	Yes	N/A
Tagging of item	Yes	Yes
Saved search term	Yes	Yes
Sort and filter items	Yes	Yes
Grouping and filtering	Yes	Yes
Merge items (Contacts)	Yes	Unknown
Public API to execute/display virtual folder within application	Planned	Yes
Workflow Management		
Annotation of items	Planned	No
Priority/Flagging	Planned	No
Task assignment	Planned	No
Workflow - process design	Planned	No
Collaboration		
Synchronization of items/organization between computers	Planned	Yes
Sharing of virtual folders	Planned	Yes
Export to files	Planned	Unknown