



What's New Document

Version 8.1

Learn more at www.swsoft.com/plesk

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Key Themes

The release of Plesk 8.1 is the first step in providing our users with a unified automation solution. This new version of the software brings platform parity to Plesk and continues to deliver innovative ease of use, the highest levels of stability and performance, security and unmatched value. This is a major release for the Windows version of the software which now contains many of the features and capabilities found in the Linux version making Plesk the true leader in multi-platform control panels.

The new release is designed to increase the administrator, client and domain user experience. The new Plesk Desktop feature in the Windows version is a major enhancement to the user interface that is task oriented and fully customizable. This feature has been created to meet the needs of any hosting customer, from non-technical users to advanced technical users.

Major advances include:

- New Desktop Feature
- Customizable Interface Templates
- Improved Virtuozzo Integration
- Group E-mail Messages

Top Key Features for Windows

- 1. Plesk Desktop** – Now administrators and clients have quick access to major management functions and they have immediate access to mission critical information and statistics. The task oriented design also allows administrators to create “favorites” and “shortcuts”. Plesk Desktop allows all clients to have their own desktops with a customizable set of essential tasks and statistics.
- 2. Customizable Interface Templates** – In this new release, administrators can customize templates that can be assigned to individual users. This dynamic new feature makes the interface straight forward, easy to understand and intuitive.
- 3. Plesk Product News** – This new feature was designed to provide the latest news and information to Plesk users regarding major product updates and improvements. Product information is easily accessible directly from the Desktop’s News Area.
- 4. Multiple Administrator Sub-accounts** – In this new release, the Administrator has the ability to create another user account (including a username and password) and grant the user of that account the same administrative rights.
- 5. Group E-Mail Messages** – Now Administrators can notify groups of Plesk Accounts regarding system status, announce special offers, or provide information about their services. With this new feature, Admins can easily select and target groups of users (Clients/Domain Owners) and efficiently send notifications.
- 6. PHP4 and PHP5 per Domain** – This new feature meets the demand from our customers to have Plesk with PHP4 and PHP5 integration on the same machine. In Plesk 8.1, users can select which version of PHP they want to use on each virtual host.
- 7. VZ Autoupdater** – When Plesk is installed in a Virtuozzo Virtual Environment (VE) as a template, the Autoupdater will automatically update the VE with the new Plesk templates as soon as they are available on the node.
- 8. Acronis True Image 9.1** – Plesk is now integrated with Acronis 9.1. Administrators can create server disk backup images without interrupting server operations and perform easy and fast recovery of the entire system.

Additional Features for Windows

- 1. Top News** – Now, there is a “Top News” area in the left frame of Webmail. This area can be found in all of Plesk’s default pages.
- 2. Plesk XML Key** – As part of the Open Fusion initiative, Plesk for Windows will work with the new SWsoft license key format.
- 3. Additional Keys** – Additional key support has been implemented for Acronis True Image and Kaspersky Anti-Virus. Now you can purchase, retrieve and update license keys for these products directly from the Plesk interface.
- 4. Improved Centralized DNS** – This update to the Centralized DNS feature reduces the amount of required running processes and increases density on Virtuozzo when working with Expand.
- 5. Upgraded Kaspersky Anti-Virus (KAV)** – Rebuilt Plesk KAV with a new digital signature and KAV SDK for Windows which fixes several known vulnerabilities.
- 6. Upgraded Horde IMP** – The Horde IMP Webmail application integrated with Plesk is upgraded to the latest stable release. Included in this upgrade are Email Filter Rules Manager (Ingo), Notes and Memos Application (Mnemo), Kronolith Calendar Application, and much more.
- 7. Immediately Run Scheduled Tasks** – In this release, users have the option of running the scheduled tasks immediately if necessary.
- 8. ODBC DSN Limits** – Now, users have the ability to specify the maximum number of ODBC data sources.
- 9. FrontPage Mail Settings** – This feature allows users to manage mail accounts and the SMTP server for FrontPage Server Extensions.
- 10. MySQL 5 Support** – Plesk will now support MySQL 5 which delivers advanced SQL standard-compliant features such as stored procedures, triggers, views and pluggable storage engines.
- 11. Improved Plesk Density on Virtuozzo** – Plesk is optimized to operate within Virtuozzo Virtual Environments. Now, you can host up to 15 percent more virtual private servers with Plesk on a single physical server (measured on a typical server with Dual Xeon CPU and 8 gigabytes of RAM).
- 12. More Subdomain Levels** – Now Plesk can manage any level of sub-domains.
- 13. IIS and Mail In-place Migration** – You can easily migrate custom Web and mail server configurations during the installation of Plesk.
- 14. SpamAssassin Usage Permission** – Server administrators can now allow and/or prohibit the use of Spamassassin spam-filter for domain owners.
- 15. Additional Control Panel Branding** – You can now brand the Plesk control panel’s web pages, and use your company logo in the Plesk control panel.
- 16. Improved Navigation Pane Control** – It is now possible to hide the Plesk navigation pane when you do not need it (for example when using Plesk Desktop feature).

Top Key Features for Linux/UNIX

- 1. More WebStats Available** – Now users can use AWstats as an alternative web statistics program. AWstats is a powerful tool that generates advanced web, streaming, ftp or mail server statistics.
- 2. Support for More Operating Systems** – Plesk supports more operating systems than ever before. In this new release, support was added for FedoraCore 5 (i586, x86_64), SuSE ES 10 (i586, x86_64) and Ubuntu 6.06 (i586, x86_64). Virtuozzo templates for all new OS'es are also available.
- 3. MySQL 5 Support** – In addition to supporting a new FedoraCore version, the Linux version of the software will now support MySQL 5 which delivers advanced SQL standard-compliant features such as stored procedures, triggers, views and pluggable storage engines.
- 4. FreeBSD Packages** – Plesk 8.1 for FreeBSD operating systems is distributed as a set of pkg packages (similar to RPM/Deb on Linuxes) instead of shell self-extracting archives as in previous releases. This new feature allows administrators to omit optional components during installation and to update Plesk and third-party components separately.
- 5. Improved Plesk Density on Virtuozzo** – Plesk is optimized to operate within Virtuozzo Virtual Environments. Now, you can host up to 15 percent more virtual private servers with Plesk on a single physical server (measured on a typical server with Dual Xeon CPU and 8 gigabytes of RAM).
- 6. VZ Autoupdater** – Now, Plesk and Virtuozzo can be easily upgraded using the auto-installer feature in Virtuozzo operating the EZ templates installed on a hardware node. This saves disk space significantly and improves overall density.
- 7. SpamAssassin Usage Permission** – Server administrators can now allow and prohibit the use of Spamassassin spam-filter for domain owners.
- 8. Limits for Domain Aliases** – Now, server administrators can limit the number of domain aliases allowed for client and domain owner accounts.
- 9. Hostname Validation Redesign** – Host name validation during Plesk installation was improved in Plesk 8.1, making the validation process more reliable. Special attention was given to providing a smooth installation of Plesk into a Virtuozzo VE from HSPcomplete or VZMC.
- 10. Improved Language Package Distribution (Support)** – Now, Language Packages can also be distributed as .rpm packages to be compatible with Red Hat Linux and as .deb packages to be compatible with Debian and Ubuntu.
- 11. Ruby on Rails Support** – This version of the software supports Ruby on Rails, which is designed to be a simple, complete, extensible, and portable scripting language. Developed mostly on Linux/UNIX, Ruby works across most platforms.
- 12. Autoinstaller Vendor Updates** – This new feature allows the software to be automatically updated directly from the vendor's sites instead of just through autoinstall.plesk.com (in this release this feature has no GUI representation and available only in the command line).
- 13. Improvements to Backup Manager** – In this new version, the Plesk Back up Manager Feature provides admins with a convenient interface for setting server-wide backup parameters.
- 14. Upgraded Horde IMP** – The Horde IMP Webmail application integrated with Plesk is upgraded to the latest stable release. Included in this upgrade are Email Filter Rules Manager (Ingo), Notes and Memos Application (Mnemo), Kronolith Calendar Application, and much more. Plus, mobile users can now access their webmail from WAP mobile phones and PDAs.
- 15. Group E-Mail Messages** – Now, Administrators can notify groups of Plesk Accounts regarding system status, announce special offers, or provide information about their services. With this new feature, Admins can easily select and target groups of users (Clients/Domain Owners) and efficiently send notifications.
- 16. Improved Navigation Pane Control** – It is now possible to hide Plesk navigation pane when you do not need it (for example when using Plesk Desktop feature).

Selected Screenshots

FIGURE 1.
ADMINISTRATOR DESKTOP

Plesk features a major enhancement in the user interface - Plesk Desktop. Now, mission critical information and statistics are immediately available when a Plesk Administrator first logs on. There is also instant access to the major management functions.

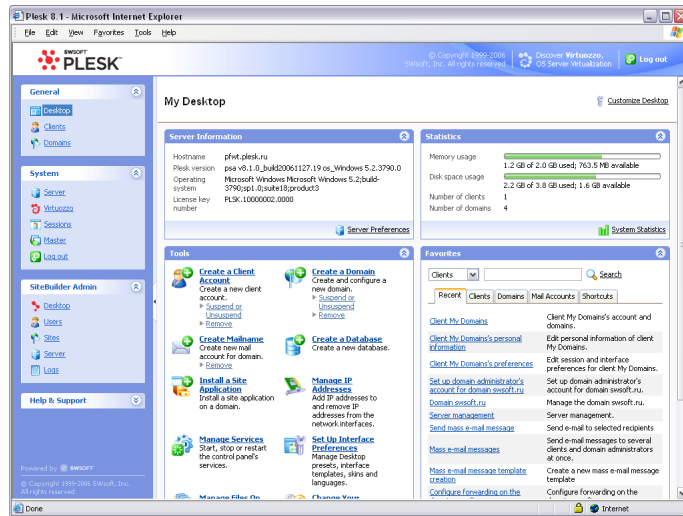


FIGURE 2.
CLIENT DESKTOP

All clients have their own Desktops with customizable sets of essential tasks and statistics. Every part of the new Desktop can be hidden or removed completely from the interface to make it cleaner and easy to use.

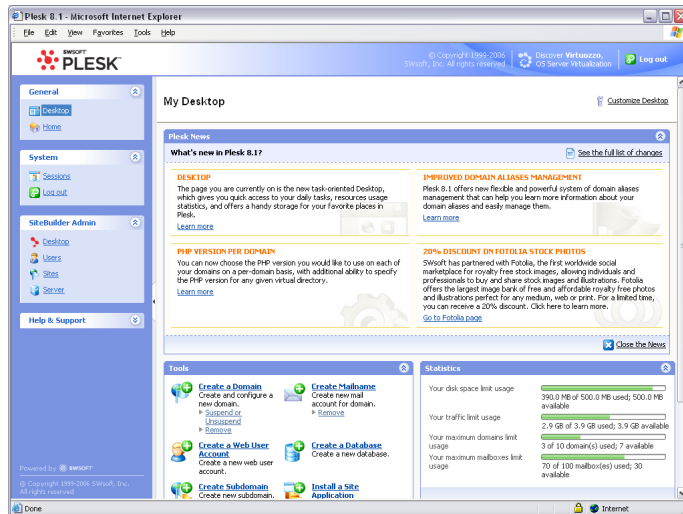
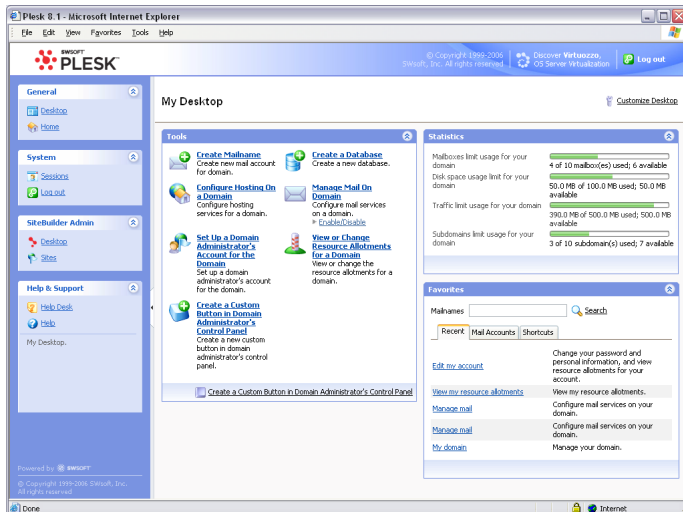


FIGURE 3.
DOMAIN DESKTOP

The Plesk Desktop is also available for Domain administrators. Its flatter and faster now all tasks are one simple click away.



Selected Screenshots (continued)

FIGURE 4.
INTERFACE TEMPLATES
MANAGEMENT

Plesk, takes System Management to a new level of flexibility and speed with customization templates that can be assigned to individual users.

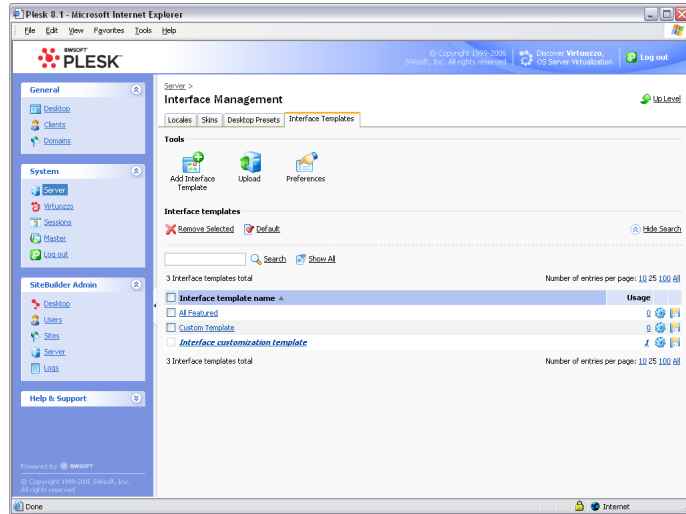


FIGURE 5.
GROUP E-MAIL MESSAGES

Now Administrators can notify groups of Plesk Accounts regarding system status, announce special offers, or provide information about their services. With this new feature, Admins can easily select and target groups of users (Clients/Domain Owners) and efficiently send notifications.

