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Back in January we released the Beta and updated you on our overall engineering process that will get us from Beta to the Release Candidate. Today, downloading of the Release Candidate started and weâ€™re already seeing a lot of installations and a lot of excitement. On behalf of the team, I want to extend a thank you for all of the millions of people who have been running and testing the Beta who have helped to make the Release Candidate possible. The feedback we have received, through all the mechanisms we have given information in this article about, has been an incredibly valuable part of Engineering Windows 7.

This post is about the path from RC to what we call RTM, release to manufacturing. RTM is not one point in time but a â€œprocessâ€• as from RTM we enable the PC manufacturers to begin their processes of building Windows 7 images for new PCs, readying downloads for existing machines, and preparing the full supply chain to deliver Windows 7 to customers. Thus RTM is the final stage in our engineering of Windows 7, but the engineering continues from RTM until you can purchase Windows 7 and Windows 7 PCs in stores at General Availability, or GA.

The path to RTM starts with downloads of the RC. The RC is â€œdoneâ€• and what we are doing is validating this against the breadth of the ecosystem and with partners. It means, from our perspective, we have run many tests many times and are working to understand the quality of the release in a breadth sense. Weâ€™re all familiar with this as we have done this same thing as we went from pre-Beta to Beta and from Beta to RC. The primary difference with the RC is that we will not be changing the functionality or features of the product at this pointâ€”thatâ€™s the sort of thing weâ€™ll do for a future release. Weâ€™ve gotten tons of feedback on design and features and shown how we have digested and acted on this feedback throughout many posts in many articles. We know we did not do everything that was asked, and we have also seen that weâ€™ve been asked to do things that are tricky to reconcile. We hoped through the dialog on this blog that weâ€™ve shown our commitment to listening and balancing a wide variety of inputs, and how we have thought about the evolution of Windows and MCTS Certification.

What sort of feedback are we looking for in the RC? We are primarily focused on monitoring the behavior of the product through the telemetry, and of course making sure we did not introduce any regressions in any dimension from Beta quality. One of the things we have done since Beta has continued to beef up telemetryâ€”weâ€™ve put in additional monitoring points in many systems. Weâ€™re particularly interested in seeing what devices are installed, drivers that are required, and overall system performance. We have telemetry points that monitor the UI responsiveness of the Start Menu, Internet Explorer (recently posted), Boot, Shutdown, Resume, and across all subsystems. Of course in the final product, this telemetry is optional and opt-in, and it is always private.

There are a series of specific types of reports that we are keeping an eye out for that would constitute changes we would make to the code between now and RTM. Some of these might include:

- * Installation â€” We have significant telemetry in the setup process and also significant logging. Of course if you canâ€™t set up at all that is something we are interested in and the same holds for upgrades from Windows Vista. For the â€œenrolledâ€• beta programs we have a mechanism to enlist a connection to Microsoft for these issues and for the broad community the public support groups are monitored.

* Security issues – Obviously any vulnerability is a potential for something we would fix. We will use the same criteria to address these issues as we would for any in-market product.

* Crashes and Hangs – We are monitoring the –crash– reports for issues that arise that impact broad sets of people. These could be Windows code, drivers, or third party software. This information streams –real time– to Microsoft and we watch it very carefully.

* Device installation and compatibility – When you download a driver from Windows Update or install a driver via a manufacturer’s setup program this is a data point we collect. We’ve had millions of unique PnP IDs through the Beta. We also receive the IDs for devices that failed to locate drivers. We are constantly updating this web service with pointers to information about the device (driver availability, instructions, etc.)

* Software installation – Similar to devices, we are also monitoring the installation process of software and noting programs that do not complete successfully. Again we have the mechanism to help move that forward and/or introduce compatibility work in the RTM milestone.

* Servicing – We will continue to test the servicing of Windows 7 so everyone should expect updates to be made available via Windows Update. This includes new drivers and will also include patches to Windows 7. Test Updates will be labeled as such. We might also fix any significant issue with new code as well. All of this in an effort to validate the servicing pipeline and to maintain the quality of the RC.

* New Hardware – Perhaps the most important category is making sure that we work with all the new hardware being made as we all use 7100. Our PC Manufacturing partners and Hardware partners are engineering new PCs and these are combinations new to the market and new to the OS. We’re working together to make sure Windows 7 has great support for these PCs and hardware.

Ultimately our partners will determine when their PCs are available in market. If the feedback and telemetry on Windows 7 match our expectations then we will enter the final phases of the RTM process in about 3 months. If we are successful in that, then we tracking to our shared goal of having PCs with Windows 7 available this Holiday season. After reading this article if you are planning to take advance your career and seeking best online training Actualkey.com is only IT online training provider that provide the all the and complete MCITP Certification exams training in just one package. With Self study training kits, save your money on bootcamps, training institutes, Online training save your traveling and time also. All training materials are Guaranteed to pass your exams and get you certified on the first attempt, due to best training is the no1 site for 2011.

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