



Pendragon

***Perspective*: VERSION 3 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION**

System Requirements

For running *Perspective* version 3, the recommended minimum specification for the user's computer (client), in addition to those of the base operating system, is:

- 1 GHz Pentium® single core or better
- Any of the desktop Microsoft® operating systems from Windows® 95 onwards, including:
 - Windows® XP
 - Windows® 7
- 1Gb for Windows Vista®, and Windows® 7, 256 MB for earlier operating systems
- Graphics adapter capable of displaying 1024x768 minimum, 16k colours.
- 55 Mb of free disk space for installation, 38 Mb after restart (of which 15 MB is required for the Borland® Database Engine (BDE) version 5.1)

A standalone installation of *Perspective* (i.e. one not retrieving data from a shared network server) or a Terminal Server installation of *Perspective* (e.g. Citrix) requires an additional 3.5Gb of storage space.

In addition the following, third party software components are required:

- Microsoft® Internet Explorer version 5.5 or greater (Internet Explorer 8 or above strongly recommended). Microsoft® Internet Explorer need not be the default browser, but must be installed.
- Adobe® Reader® (formerly Acrobat® Reader®) version 8.0 or greater or other application capable of reading and associated with PDF files.

Core and Online Content

Perspective has two types of Pensions content: 'core' and 'online'.

The **core** content is supplied at install time and comprises the vast majority of materials, e.g.: Acts, Bills, Statutory Instruments, Law Reports, Regulatory Materials, European Materials, Ombudsman's Determinations, and Commentary.

The **online** content comprises daily news, news archives and extended survey materials. It is available via a live web (http) connection to the *Perspective* Online Content Server. The online content is updated several times each day and parts of it (in particular the news) are also made available to individual users via regular multipart (HTML & plain text) emails.

The core content is frequently updated by the addition of new materials or by replacement of existing materials by amended versions, and is updated via a mechanism provided at installation time. The update process should be run daily, ideally at night, as new or amended core content is typically published most weekday evenings.

Installation Options

The initial installation process for *Perspective* transfers all necessary core content files from a DVD-ROM to the subscriber's target PC or server. Additionally, the infrastructure for updating the core content is installed. Installation options include both standalone (on a single PC or Terminal Server) and client/server options (where the content directories and structure are installed on a network file server, while the main *Perspective* executable and certain other required files are placed on client machines connected to the subscriber's server).

Windows Terminal Server / Thin Client

Whilst specific expertise is not provided by Pendragon for this type of environment, we have a number of organizations successfully using *Perspective* under Windows Terminal Server and Citrix. However inter-application integration is limited to applications within the same domain in such architectures.

Subscriber Network Requirements

Perspective is designed to share its data amongst several (client) users. The core data may be shared using any standard file-sharing product capable of presenting a shared folder via either a logical drive mapping or (non-hidden) UNC path. Suitable products include all versions of Microsoft® Windows Server™, Microsoft® Windows® peer-to-peer file sharing or Samba.

Some clients have reported success using NAS devices but no specific support can be given.

A full file server installation requires a minimum of 3.5Gb of free space, which includes all necessary tools and files required to perform client installations. This requirement anticipates the estimated growth in *Perspective* content over the next twelve months.

Additionally, for access to the online parts of *Perspective*, the network must provide each client user with http (web) access to the *Perspective* Online Content Server via an existing internet connection with a static IP address which identifies the organization uniquely. *Perspective* users access all online content exclusively via Microsoft® Internet Explorer, embedded with the application, regardless of the default web browser.

File Permissions

In networked environments, workstation users must have read access to the core *Perspective* content area on the server, and read/write access to the *Perspective* user data area. The read/write/access directory can be separately specified and is typically only a few hundred kilobytes in size.

The user (actual or machine) responsible for running the update mechanism (see below) must additionally have read/write access to the entire core content area.

Requirements for Update and Online Content Access

Sites with existing broadband Internet access over cable, DSL, multi-channel ISDN or leased line can connect via http (web) to the *Perspective* Online Content and Update Server to access online content and download core content updates respectively. NTLM proxy authentication is *not* supported for online updating.

Update Program Requirements

In order to update the core content, a single connection must be established from a workstation or server at the subscriber's site to the *Perspective* Online Update Server. This is achieved by standard http (web) via an existing high-speed internet connection.

Typically, 20-25 updates are published each month. A typical download is between 20-30Mb.

Updates are initially transferred from the *Perspective* Online Update Server to a storage area on the subscriber's site. Once transferred, the contents of each update may optionally be verified and virus-checked by the subscriber before being 'integrated' into one or more subscriber sites or servers. Where several sites or servers exist, only one set of updates may be downloaded each day. These updates are

distributed across other sites using routines provided and may be removed from the storage area once they have been successfully integrated into each site.

An installation that is updated daily may need up to 500 Mb of temporary storage space. The size of the core data repository on each server will grow in time. The minimum space requirements previously outlined take into account the anticipated growth within a twelve-month period of around 500MB per year.

The update mechanism is provided in the form of a library of open-source scripts written in the language 'Perl'. In order to accommodate any specific site requirements, such as security, transport method restrictions or virus scanning, the subscriber may modify the perl scripts. The scripts provided require Perl version 5.6 or above, which is freely available for a number of platforms. Pendragon recommends ActivePerl® for Windows® platforms.

Where a site cannot undertake online updating or has not updated for a considerable time, Pendragon will provide bi-monthly DVD-ROM updates for the core content.

Online Content Access Requirements

The online content (for example: News and extended Pension Surveys materials) are accessed live from within the *Perspective* application through a connection to the *Perspective* Online Content Server. Such a connection is made via an existing internet connection.

Access to the *Perspective* Online Content Server is normally via a range of agreed static IP addresses, provided those addresses are for the exclusive use of the licensed organization. See <http://perspective.info/iptest> for more information.

For online content to be accessible, each client computer must be capable of connecting to the *Perspective* Online Content Server via http and Microsoft® Internet Explorer.

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