The HP Early Evaluation program is designed to assist you with the implementation and assessment of new, unreleased HP and Compaq commercial PC products weeks before product announcement. The program is an important component of the PC lifecycle planning and transition phases. You have the unique opportunity to experience early access to new technologies and new form factors, and accelerate activities such as the pre-qualification of hardware and software images and drivers in your own computing environment.

How it works

• **Nomination process** — Account teams and regional contacts nominate global and major accounts to fill an allotted number of slots for participation in each Early Evaluation Program. Nominated companies are accepted based on factors such as opportunity and priority, as determined by regional product contacts and sales management.

• **HP beta test site agreement** — Due to the nature of the program, each participating company must sign a binding legal contract designed to protect HP intellectual property and to inform the participating company that it is receiving an unreleased product. This is different and more robust than a standard NDA.

• **Feedback** — At the end of each Early Evaluation Program (typically 45 days), customers and account teams are asked to complete surveys that provide feedback on various aspects of the program. This essential feedback may be used to influence future product designs and improve/enhance the program going forward. The beta units must be returned at the end of the program due to the fact that they contain no warranty and cannot be sold.
What is an early evaluation unit?

An early evaluation unit has the following features:

• Pre-production product that is provided to customers prior to product announcement
• Offers “near final” hardware and components and a pre-release version of the software
• Recommended for form factor testing, testing with third-party options, and fundamental software image development work
• Not suitable for benchmarking or software image certification
• Not for sale and must be returned to HP at the end of the evaluation period
• Does not carry a warranty
• Supported by third-level support (not standard HP technical support) for the duration of the program only; once the program ends, so does any support of the beta equipment
• Not suitable for a production environment or for an internal operations environment

Resources

HP Early Evaluation offers the following customer resources:

• **Software downloads/product information** — This password-protected section contains downloadable drivers and product overviews to assist you with your Early Evaluation unit.

• **Technical assistance** — Should problems arise with your unit, simply complete a short online form. Technical assistance will be provided by HP in accordance with the terms of the HP beta test site agreement.

• **Survey** — An online form is available for feedback and comments on both the product and the program. HP uses this information to influence new and future products based on customer requirements.

• **Information packet** — An information packet shipped with each unit contains a restoration CD (if available), program and product information, and a preprinted label for easy return of the beta unit.

Benefits

The HP Early Evaluation program offers you the following PC lifecycle benefits:

• Evaluate a new product weeks before the product announcement
• Compare current technology against newest release
• Experience new form factors and functionality in your own environment
• Increase customer satisfaction through improved product transition planning
• Influence product development with your OEM
• Initiate image development efforts on new platforms prior to formal launch
• Deploy new technology more quickly

For more information about the HP Early Evaluation Program, visit our website at www.hp.com/programs/earlyevaluation

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