

## Quick Reference Comparison

# Windows MSDE and MSDE

### Microsoft Windows SQL Server 2000 Desktop Engine (WMSDE)

- Based on SQL Server 2000.
- Typically provided from Microsoft as part of another application such as Windows Share Point Services, and Windows Update Services.
- Can be installed on a computer only running Windows 2003.
- Does not have a user interface or tools.
- Administrators are meant to interact with this through a supported software application.
- Can not access the database using SQL Enterprise Tools from a SQL 2000 Server.
- Databases are not limited in size.
- A single WMSDE server can support multiple WMSDE databases.
- Does not have limitations on the concurrent workloads hitting the database at any one time.

### Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Desktop Engine (MSDE)

- Based on SQL Server 2000.
- Freely downloadable from Microsoft.
- Can be installed on a computer running Windows 2000/2003/XP/NT4/98/Me.
- Does not have a user interface or tools.
- Administrators are meant to interact with this through a supported software application.
- Can access the database using SQL Enterprise Tools from a SQL 2000 Server.
- Databases are limited to 2 gigabytes (GB) of data.
- A single MSDE server can support multiple MSDE databases, each containing up to the 2 GB limit.
- Supports fewer than five concurrent workloads hitting the database at any one time.
- Can participate in most types of replication with either a centralized SQL Server or another MSDE. This may require a CAL.
- Cannot use integrated security features when running on Windows 98/Me.

For a comparison between the full editions of SQL see  
<http://www.microsoft.com/sql/evaluation/features/choosing.msp>