



SMB Newsletter

Issue 27

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It is a fact of life. The Vista Operating System and Office 2007 have been released to the general public for use. As many of you know, the reception and reviews of both have been mixed.



Laura Dallas Burford

This issue contains general information on the Vista Operating System. There is far too much to include in one article so as different topics and issues arise, we will provide you additional information. Office 2007 was discussed in Issue 25, but some questions have arisen so additional information is included on Page 6. You can find Issue 25 on our website, <http://www.ladenterprizes.com/pdf/Issue25.pdf>.

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Vista is Here. So What Version Should You Buy and When.

Windows Vista is Microsoft's first new operating system in more than five years and is the result of a complete rewrite of the Windows Operating System. The changes extend beyond the new user interface (Aero) to include security, as well as core operating system processes and services, and a new device driver model. The changes are significant enough that existing hardware and software may not work with Vista.

Below is a list of "Key Windows Vista features not available on Windows XP" taken from the Microsoft Vista product guide:

- Windows Vista Basic and Windows Vista Aero user experiences*
- Windows Sidebar (houses gadgets)
- Windows Device Driver Model (WDDM)
- New thumbnail previews within the shell
- Unified home and domain login experience
- Reading Pane integration into the Windows Explorers (with the 2007

Microsoft Office system at launch, third parties to follow)

- Programs Explorer
- Redesigned Control Panel
- Windows Photo Gallery
- Shell support for RAW codecs
- Search integration in Windows Explorers
- MPEG-2 decoders*
- Parental Controls
- Improved sharing (folder and per-item)
- Improved performance (Windows SuperFetch, Automatic Disk Defragmentation, Windows ReadyBoost support)

*Note: The Aero user interface (UI) and MPEG-2 codecs are not included in Windows Vista Basic and Windows Vista Starter editions.

Requirements

With increased capability come increased hardware requirements. We think this is a

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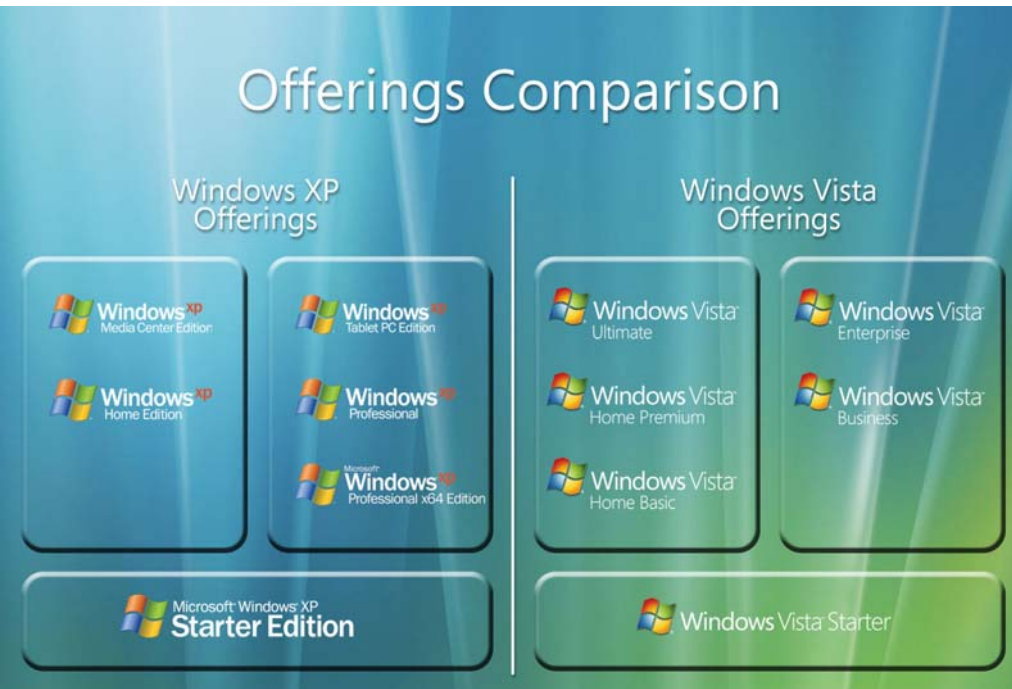


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significant hurdle to those wanting to upgrade to Vista on existing computers and will materially increase the acquisition cost of new computers. For the most up-to-date minimum requirements see www.windowstv.com/systemrequirements. Our experience is that Microsoft minimum requirements allows the operating system to load albeit with reduced functionality and does not provide satisfactory performance for business users.

For computers intended for business use our recommended minimum system requirements are:

- 3 GHz 32-bit (x86) "dual core" CPU
- 2 GB or more of system memory (RAM)
- 80 GB hard drive (for system files only, additional space is needed for data) with at least 30 GB of available space
- Video card supporting DirectX 9 graphics featuring:
 - WDDM Driver
 - 256 MB of graphics memory (not shared)
 - Pixel Shader 2.0 in hardware
 - 32 bits per pixel
- DVD-ROM drive (not CD-ROM drive)



Editions – Too many choices?

Vista is offered in six major editions. Windows Vista Enterprise is available only to volume license customers and Windows Vista Starter is available only outside the United States. For purposes of this article Vista Enterprise and Vista Starter have been

ignored. This leaves four (Home Basic, Home Premium, Business and Ultimate) available to the American public and Small Businesses.

Edition Selection is Important!

Windows Vista Ultimate includes all 108 features listed in the product guide and is the edition getting the most promotion. *It is not necessarily the edition packaged on new PCs (particularly widely advertised inexpensive low end PCs) nor is it the version usually installed in an upgrade.* The differences among the editions is significant (see chart on pages 3 and 4) and buyers should take care to purchase an edition that will perform the tasks needed.

Key differences:

- Windows Vista Home editions do not provide full functionality in areas of networking technologies and activities, backup, multi-CPU support, or manageability.
- Vista Home Basic is particularly limited and also does not include the new Aero interface or multi-media support.
- The Vista Business edition does not offer multi-media support, full multi-language support or BitLocker Drive Encryption.

Our feeling is that Vista Home Basic and Home Premium are not appropriate for use in a business setting since they can not be joined to a domain and/or managed using group policy. The Vista Business edition is adequate for business use provided the business will not require native use of DVD media, want to encrypt a drive or need multi-language support.

Pitfalls

As with the introduction of both Windows 2000 and Windows XP, hardware (drivers) and (non-Microsoft) software

application compatibility are major concerns to consider before committing to Vista. We have heard many reports of hardware device driver and software incompatibilities.

Be sure to do plenty of research into driver support for your existing hardware (video card, sound card, scanner,

(Continued on page 5)

Key Differences among Vista Editions



Feature	Home Basic	Home Premium	Business	Ultimate
Scheduled backup of user files		Yes	Yes	Yes
Backup of user files to a networked PC or device		Yes	Yes	Yes
Incremental backup		Yes	Yes	Yes
Automatic backup scheduling		Yes	Yes	Yes
Complete PC Backup and Restore (image based)			Yes	Yes
Shadow Copy (restore previous versions of your documents)			Yes	Yes
Windows Aero user experience (glass, dynamic windows, and a smoother-performing desktop)		Yes	Yes	Yes
Two processors (two processor sockets) support			Yes	Yes
Years of product support	5	5	10	5
Themed slide shows		Yes		Yes
Native DVD playback		Yes		Yes
Windows Media Center—for music, photos, videos, live and recorded TV, and online entertainment		Yes		Yes
Windows Media Center—for recording and watching high-definition TV (U.S. and South Korea only)		Yes		Yes
Windows Media Center—Cable Card support (U.S. only)		Yes		Yes
Support for Media Center Extenders, including Xbox 360		Yes		Yes
Windows Movie Maker HD		Yes		Yes
Windows DVD Maker (Video DVD Authoring and Burning)		Yes		Yes
New premium games		Yes	Yes*	Yes
Parental Controls	Yes	Yes		Yes
Small Business Resources			Yes	Yes
Windows Fax and Scan			Yes	Yes*
Wireless network provisioning			Yes	Yes

(continued on page 4)

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Key Differences among Vista Editions



Feature	Home Basic	Home Premium	Business	Ultimate
Domain Support (allows PC to join a domain)			Yes	Yes
Simultaneous SMB peer network connections	5	10	10	10
Windows Mobility Center	Partial	Partial	Yes	Yes
Offline Folder support (allows automatic synchronization with network files and folders)			Yes	Yes
Windows Tablet PC with integrated pen/digital ink input		Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Tablet PC touch screen support		Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Tablet PC handwriting recognition improvements		Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Tablet PC usability and navigation improvements		Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows SideShow		Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Meeting Space	View only	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scheduled backup of user files		Yes	Yes	Yes
Backup of user files to a network device		Yes	Yes	Yes
System image–based backup and recovery			Yes	Yes
Encrypting File System			Yes	Yes
Desktop deployment tools for managed networks			Yes	Yes
Policy-based quality of service for networking			Yes	Yes
Windows Rights Management Services (RMS) Client			Yes	Yes
Control over installation of device drivers			Yes	Yes
Network Access Protection Client Agent			Yes	Yes
Windows BitLocker Drive Encryption				Yes
Support for simultaneous installation of multiple user interface languages				Yes
All worldwide user interface languages (36 languages total) available				Yes
Subsystem for UNIX-based applications				Yes
Group Policy support			Yes	Yes

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printer(s), camera(s) etc) and contact your software vendor for Vista compatibility before upgrading and/or migrating to Vista.

When and How

For those committed to using Microsoft products, the big question related to Vista is one of timing. Should I buy a copy of Vista to upgrade a perfectly adequate machine running an earlier version of Windows? Should I have Vista installed on a new computer? Our take is that while the interface is slick, search is improved and security

appears to be stronger, there isn't a compelling reason to adopt Vista immediately. There is however, good reason to delay: hardware and software vendors need time to rewrite device drivers and programs to properly work with Vista.

We do not recommend upgrading existing computers to Vista. Migrate to Vista from Windows XP after service pack 1 is released (expected mid-summer 2007) by purchasing Vista on new PCs built to support the OS. Additionally, check with your application vendor to ensure the application has been tested and works properly with Vista.

What is Windows Aero?

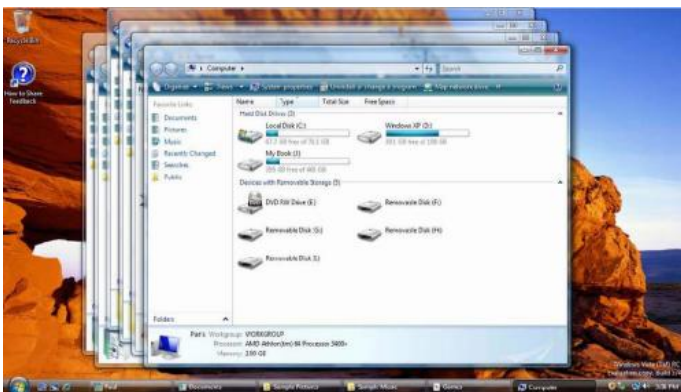
Windows Aero is the new Windows graphical user interface (GUI) included with all editions of Vista except Home Basic. Three of the new features:

Aero Glass

Windows, or part of Windows, such as borders are translucent. Notice in the illustration that you can see the desktop image "behind" window borders. This effect is called Aero Glass or Glass. The intent is to allow users to more easily focus on the contents contained within a window, and also provides better context for the surrounding elements on your desktop while working.

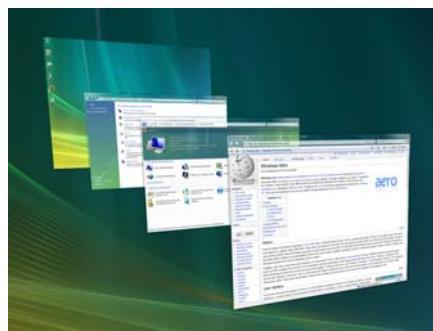
Taskbar Thumbnails

Shows live contents of windows that are currently open, in the background, or minimized in the taskbar. When the mouse hovers over a window tile on the taskbar, the thumbnail of the "live" contents of that window is presented without having to bring it to the forefront of your screen.



Flip 3-D

A dramatic new feature, it produces a 3-D plane on which live open program windows are scrolled using the Windows Key + Tab.



THIS ISSUE'S QUESTION

OK, I RECEIVED AN OFFICE 2007 WORD DOCUMENT AND I AM NOT ABLE TO READ IT. WHAT DO I DO?

In SMB Newsletter, Issue 25 we mentioned that Microsoft has new file formats and extensions for Office 2007 documents. The new formats reduce file size, improve security and reliability, and enhance integration with external sources.

So, if you are using Office 2000 or Office 2003 and you want to open an Office 2007 (or exchange documents with someone using an Office 2007 document), you have two options.

1. Contact the person who sent you the file and ask them to save the document in an earlier format.
2. Download and install Microsoft's Office Compatibility Pack. To download the Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2007 file formats go to <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/products/HA101686761033.aspx>. You might also want to review the Microsoft Knowledge Base article for additional information, <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/923505>.

Please note we have seen it take a few minutes to convert the Office 2007 documents to Office 2003.

If you need a handy reference with the new Office 2007 File Extensions, Cut out the below and place by your computer.

FILE EXTENSIONS FOR OFFICE 2007 DOCUMENT TYPES

Microsoft Office "Word 12"	Extension
"Word 12" Document	.docx
"Word 12" Macro-Enabled Document	.docm
"Word 12" Template	.dotx
"Word 12" Macro-Enabled Template	.dotm

Microsoft Office "Excel 12"	Extension
"Excel 12" Workbook	.xlsx
"Excel 12" Macro-Enabled Workbook	.xlsm
"Excel 12" Template	.xltx
"Excel 12" Macro-Enabled Template	.xltm
"Excel 12" Binary Workbook	.xlsb
"Excel 12" Macro-Enabled Add-In	.xlam

Microsoft Office "PowerPoint 12"	Extension
"PowerPoint 12" Presentation	.pptx
"PowerPoint 12" Macro-Enabled Presentation	.pptm
"PowerPoint 12" Template	.potx
"PowerPoint 12" Macro-Enabled Template	.potm
"PowerPoint 12" Macro-Enabled Add-In	.ppam
"PowerPoint 12" Show	.ppsx
"PowerPoint 12" Macro-Enables Show	.ppsm

Prepared by LAD Enterprizes

Charts and Pictures included in this Newsletter from Microsoft. Additional information on Vista can be found on Microsoft's website.

OUR SERVICES

From advice and planning to the nitty-gritty technical work, we work with you. We place a priority on understanding your **business needs and goals** first, explain your **technology options** to you, and work with you to **implement processes and systems** that meet your needs and help your business grow.

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