

Windows Vista is here!

31/01/07

Microsoft's newest operating system, made specifically for SME's is finally here. Now that it's available, the two most common questions we hear from our customers are, "How is it different?" and "Should I upgrade?"

How is it different?

Windows Vista has several new features and enhancements. The most prominent or widely advertised being the new look and feel of it, which is twice as exciting with the better graphics. The visually appealing new interface includes, "transparent animated windows that swoosh into place", a 3D flip option of opened windows over your screen and a few fun desktop gadgets that deliver stock quotes, weather forecast and other "neat to have spiffs" in real time.

Beyond the visually impressive side of this new operating system, which Microsoft describes as "WOW", there is another side that will appeal to the business minded person looking for real business benefits. Several technical upgrades from Windows XP and many new enhancements designed with businesses in mind may be the sway you need to upgrade.

The most common business issues are addressed with Vista, including Security, Reliability and Productivity. Here are a few reasons why Vista could be considered a good business decision.

Better Security

- ▶ **Firewall is now two-way**, including inbound and outbound protection
- ▶ New Windows Defender to **protect against spyware**
- ▶ Internet Explorer now **has anti phishing filter** to protect against web scams
- ▶ Vista **alerts** you when potentially dangerous software is trying to run on your computer

More Reliability

- ▶ Performance Self Tuning, Self Healing technologies, **built in diagnostic and repair tools** keep your computer running at its best and provides **automatic fixes**
- ▶ Windows **back up and restore** centre means your PC remembers to back up for you, you can also schedule automatic network back ups, and you can quickly restore lost documents

Windows Flip & Windows Flip 3D



Better Productivity

- ▶ **New file searching capabilities** allows you to narrow your search for efficiency and to save your search for future reference
- ▶ Easier to find and configure sharing features for **improved file and folder sharing**
- ▶ Windows Vista offers **new mobility** features
- ▶ For the **multi-tasker** you can view **thumbnail images** of all your open web pages, and **Flip 3D** lets you flip through all of your open files and windows with a simple click of your mouse

Should I upgrade?

All these capabilities, new features and enhancements may make you eager to upgrade, but we suggest that you thoroughly consider your business objectives and your current office environment before you make your decision.

While your current PC's may run Windows XP or Windows 98, they may not be able to run Windows Vista, which could mean you have to replace all your PC's as part of the upgrade. Other things to consider include it's compatibility with your other hardware and your software and the learning curve you and your staff will experience with the new features.

As experience IT professionals who have provided SME's with upgrade services for over 10 years, we understand the issues that need to be considered before an upgrade. We will work with you and ask the right questions to determine if your business will benefit from the upgrade to Windows Vista. If it doesn't make business sense we'll let you know, and we'll tell you why. For those that will get the most out of upgrading to Windows Vista we'll make sure you choose the right upgrade path and take you through a smooth transition to Windows Vista.