

Office 2007

I bet you already knew the Windows operating system called Vista has been released to the public. Many folks have probably rushed right out to purchase it the first day it was available. I unfortunately have not yet been able to try out Vista because Microsoft was about 3 weeks late releasing this software to its Microsoft Partners, so I didn't get the software until about 4 days after it was released to the public. You may not have realized though that Microsoft also released a new version of Microsoft Office. The Microsoft Office 2007 was released the same day Vista was made available.

Again, this is a software I have not yet been able to use first hand but as usual I try to stay ahead of the curve by reading as many reviews as possible. So far, I have not seen anything that makes me want to drop everything and install Office 2007 on all of my computers. Here is what I found.

Office 2007 boasts a new easier to use interface. This new interface uses a "ribbon" approach across the top instead of drop down boxes. The purpose of this redesign was to make it easier for users to find all of the features found in Microsoft Office. This is good news for new users just learning how to use Office. Bad news for experienced users because there is no switch back to a classic view. In other words, experienced users will have to relearn how to use Office.

A significant advancement to Office 2007 has to do with the file system. Office 2007 uses a new file system based on the XML file format. This file format will make your files more stable and also the file size will be smaller. The XML file format is known as an open file format and will allow you to exchange files that you create with other programs more easily. If however, you primarily trade files with people using older versions of Microsoft Office, including 2003 and older, then you will actually have more trouble. In order for people with older version of Office to read the files you create with this new version Office you will need to do a "save as" to save the file in the older file format.

Lastly, if you use a custom application that integrates with any element of Office, such as ACT! or a PDA program, you should check with the application developer to be sure that this new version of Office is compatible with your program. Many add-on programs will require an upgrade in order to integrate with Office 2007.

In a nutshell, I don't see anything compelling to upgrade to this newest version of Office, however, you should make up your own mind. Stop by and visit our shop anytime Monday through Friday, 10am to 5:30pm to try out the new version of Vista and Office 2007. If you are having problems with your computer call any of our technicians at 947-0749 or e-mail me at computerdepotonline@att.net. Also, be sure to note that Computer Depot will be moving into a larger location by the end of this month. Our phone number, however, will remain the same.