

Windows Vista Part 2

Not sure why you want to upgrade to Vista? Assuming your computer system is capable of handling Vista and you have decided that you want to be the guinea pig that finds all of the unknown errors and compatibility issues that are bound to be in a new operating system, you are ready to explore all of the cool features that this upgrade will offer.

First, Microsoft promises the new operating system will provide much needed extra security over Windows XP. This includes an updated and more secure firewall and also provides for an option that will allow full disk encryption. Therefore, even if your computer is stolen your data is still protected.

If the final version of Vista looks anything like that latest release, then you will also be treated to a wide variety of extras. Old favorites such as Internet Explorer and Windows Media Player get much-needed upgrades. However, you will also see some new programs such as Windows Photo Gallery. This program promises to be able to organize all of your photos and even make them searchable by adding meta tags to each photo.

Other features that have been improved in Vista are the backup program and the parental controls. The current backup utility in Windows XP is virtually the same code that was designed for Windows 95 and had many drawbacks. The new program promises to be much more useful in a world where it is not uncommon for an individual to have 100 gig or more of pictures, video, music, and documents to protect. In addition, I have always thought the parental controls in Windows XP were a great idea. The problem is they never really worked well. Vista is on track to correct this problem with a more robust interface that will do a better job at keeping our children safe.

As I mentioned earlier, Internet Explorer gets an upgrade in version 7. This current version is actually available as a free download for Windows XP. However, we have found that many people have experienced connection problems after installing this update so beware. Many people will be pleased with the new Firefox look and feel. Internet Explorer 7 includes extra security features such as anti-phishing technology, which will help keep your identity and finances safe. Also, a limited protection mode will make it even harder for rouge programs to automatically install.

Lastly, but certainly not the least important, Vista sports an updated high tech look. If your computer is powerful enough you will be treated to 3D animation effects along with see through icons and the ability to preview minimized windows without opening them full screen.

Vista is going to be an exciting upgrade. Just remember that this is a brand new operating system. If you decide to take the plunge and upgrade your computer or purchase a computer with Vista already installed you are bound to find some incompatibilities with your current software or hardware. If you need advice concerning the upgradeability of your computer call the experts at Computer Depot. Thomas, Roger, or Aaron can be reached by calling 947-0749 or e-mail computerdepotonline@att.net.