



I thought I would start the New Year by giving you a bit of information on the New Operating System Microsoft has been Developing. Release date For Vista for Business was in December and will be rolling out the consumer version in January.

This short article will hopefully answer the questions "Is Vista worth upgrading to and if so, will my computer run it "

My Source for this information is from PC Magazine, January 2007 as well as the Microsoft Vista Web Page, Links are provided below.

PC Magazine did a comprehensive product review of Vista and I believe produced an unbiased opinion of this MS software.

Here are a few excerpts from the article that I fell were important info to pass along :

Windows Vista is the one of the largest software projects ever undertaken.

The New OS is more than Windows XP with a pretty face, many aspects of Vista have substantive improvements; stronger security, better built in apps, Networking enhancements, parental controls, and Direct X graphic support.

As a whole Vista feels more evolutionary than revolutionary. Vista is as all MS products backwards compatible.

PC Magazine (PCM) goes on to say "Vista is not Bug Free", "It feels as though the Release was rushed"

PCM – " Vista is good – in some respect very good – but not spectacular, Nice to have product rather than a must have"

The support life cycle for Windows XP will be one year after Vista's Release date.

For Home Users PCM suggests "You can wait until you purchase your next PC or at least do not upgrade until the bugs are worked out"

For Business Customers PCM Suggests "It makes sense to start evaluating Vista now, particularly since deployment, management and security could lead to significant cost reductions in the long term"

To test if your existing system can be upgraded to Vista Microsoft has developed a web site for you to download a Upgrade advisor ;

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getready/upgradeadvisor/default.mspx>

Basically you are going to need 2 GB of Ram, PV 2.66 Mhz CPU or Greater, 16 GB of Free Disc Space and a high end Graphics card to take advantage Of all the Windows Aero Graphic Features.

PCM's 10 Favorite New Features of Vista :

Improved Security
New Start Menu
Internet Explorer 7
New Windows Explorer
Mobility Center

Faster Image-Based installation Process
Improved Backup, including Full Disc Image
Collaboration with Windows Meeting Source
New Performance Monitor and Event Logs
List Views of Application Window.



Vista's New Look

The Start Menu has a built in search box. Start typing and Vista will use its full text search capabilities to show you all the applications, documents, favorite links and e-mails that match.

Vista's Aero Interface takes advantage of modern 3D graphic accelerators to provide features such as translucent "glass" window frames, subtle animations, scalable icons and live preview of documents and windows.

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Vista's Sidebar, a transparent pane that docks at the side of the screen and lets you drop in various "gadgets" such as a clock, calendar or notepad.

Which Version is right for You ?

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getready/editions/default.aspx>

Prices are suggested Retail ;

\$99 Upgrade / \$199 Full

Windows Vista
Home Basic

For basic home needs such as e-mail and Internet access.

Windows Vista
Home Premium

For the best home computing and entertainment.

\$159 Upgrade / \$239 Full

\$199 Upgrade / \$299 Full

Windows Vista
Business

For small and mid-sized organizations.

Windows Vista
Ultimate

For work and entertainment, this is the most complete edition.

\$259 Upgrade / \$399 Full

Improvements for Business are as mentioned in Security, which includes Windows Defender anti-malware protection and the Windows Firewall, which in Vista filters Both inbound and outbound data. Group Policy can be manage specific ports on desktops. Vista Business Edition will back up your data Automatically, make a mistake? You can use The previous version restore because Vista is always saving your data. Full image backups offer easy restore when a hardware malfunction occurs.

To see a whole list of benefits for your business here is Microsoft's Web Site for Vista Business

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/businesses/default.aspx>

For a PC Magazines Full Article :

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2054210,00.asp>

Hope this was helpful !