

Windows Vista - Friend or Foe?

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It's almost time. On January 30, 2007, Microsoft is going to release its new operating system Microsoft Windows Vista for general use. With Windows Vista, Microsoft has taken a giant leap by revamping and enhancing everything from desktop to networking, providing excellent instant search and multimedia capabilities to secure and fast Internet access and beyond.

Windows Vista boasts of a stylish interface called Aero Interface that consists of translucent glass-like windows enabling users to perform multiple tasks at the same time. The enhanced search has been hammered so deep into the operating system that the instant you start typing the results start displaying on the screen. Features such as Gadgets on a Sidebar help by performing common tasks for you. The operating system also has enhanced security that dexterously protects your computer against malware such as, spyware, worms, viruses and Trojan horses and against scammers, crackers and snoopers.

Over all, with Windows Vista you get an operating system that is stylish, more secure, more responsive and more stable.

The Windows Vista Advantage

Windows Vista comes loaded with hundreds of new features that makes it stand out between its rivals and inspires you to upgrade your current operating system. Let me list down a few of the most significant additions and changes in Windows Vista in comparison to Windows XP.

Improved Security

Most of the work while developing Windows Vista has happened in improving its security. It comes loaded with number of visible and invisible security features that help in protecting client computers and corporate assets against malware, spammers, hackers and crackers. Different utilities included to achieve this are User Account Control (UAC), Windows Defender, Windows Firewall, Windows Security Center, Malicious Software Removal Tool and Software Restriction Policies. Windows Vista also comes with enhanced security technologies for Internet Explorer 7, such as Internet Explorer Protected Mode, ActiveX Opt-in, cross-domain scripting attack protection, Security Status Bar and Phishing Filter.

Improved Stability

Many new features have been inbuilt in Windows Vista to improve its stability. For example, the Startup Repair Tool automatically fixes most of the common startup problems. Additionally, recovery policies are incorporated with all Windows services that forces a service to restart itself and all associated services in case it crashes. Windows Vista also rescues you from multiple restarts whenever you install a new software or patch. The new Restart Manager included in it, can effectively and automatically close down and restart only the required processes reducing the need for you to restart the entire computer.

Better Backup Features

Backup features of Windows Vista are much more enhanced and user friendly in comparison to earlier operating systems. The Windows Backup program of Windows Vista not only enables you to back up data locally on writable discs, USB flash drives and other removable media but also across a network. You can automate the backup process and also back up the entire system image that you can use to restore complete system in case of a failure.

Increased Responsiveness

The search features also have had a facelift. They have been enhanced to include multiple methods to search for files, programs, emails and web information. The inbuilt Instant Search feature starts looking for information the moment you start entering your search details. Additionally, Windows Vista uses Centers to organize common tasks and features in one place. These Centers include all information related to a task or feature that makes it very simple for you to use the most common tasks and customize your computer. Windows Vista comes with the SuperFetch utility that preloads in the memory the applications you use the most. The utility intelligently prioritizes and differentiates the applications that you use at different times so that your computer is more responsive and faster to work with.

Eye Catching Interface

One of the things that I find most fascinating about Windows Vista is its Windows Aero interface. The transparent windows enable users to perform multiple tasks at the same time by focusing on current window while allowing easy access to the remaining desktop. Live icons enable users to preview the required document and easily navigate through the windows on the desktop to find the desired information in a moment.

Parental Controls

The Parental Control feature is intended for parents who want to keep an eye on what their children do while using the computer. This feature helps you control your kids' access to computer in many ways. You can configure web restrictions, set time limits and even control the games they are allowed to play. You can also block certain types of programs and generate reports to view their activity.

New Networking Features

Windows Vista provides support for IPv6 TCP/IP protocol architecture that helps you in increasing the number of available IP addresses. Wireless networking supports PA2/802.11i security standards. Different collaboration tools help you in conveniently having meetings over the network with your co-workers, partners and customers.

Improved Multimedia Features

Windows Vista takes your multimedia experience to a much higher level. It makes it easy for you to browse, search and organize your digital media such as photos, videos and music. If you have a TV tuner in your computer then you use the new Windows Media Center to record, watch and pause live television programs.

These are just a few of the many advantages and features of Windows Vista. To learn more about the excellent features of this astonishing operating system call our ServerPlex technical experts today. We will not only enlighten you on these amazing features but also help you in upgrading your computer to Windows Vista. We at ServerPlex provide complete solutions starting from analyzing your computer's hardware and software compliance to building a new Windows Vista compliant computer.

Which edition of Windows Vista should you buy?

Windows Vista has been developed to ensure that it accommodates the needs of different types of computer users and improves their computing experience. It caters from the simplest of PC users to the users working in large enterprises.

Windows Vista will be delivered in five different editions - Home Basic, Business, Home Premium, Enterprise Edition and Ultimate.

The table given here illustrates few of the main features supported by different Windows Vista editions.

Feature	Home Basic	Home Premium	Business	Enterprise Edition	Ultimate
Windows Aero		✓	✓	✓	✓
Parental Controls	✓	✓			✓
Windows DVD Maker		✓			✓
Tablet PC features		✓	✓	✓	✓
Automated backup and back up to a network device or folder		✓	✓	✓	✓
Image-based backups			✓	✓	✓
Windows Media Center		✓			✓
BitLocker Drive Encryption				✓	✓
Capability to create themed slide shows		✓			✓
Windows Movie Maker	✓	✓			✓
Wireless network provisioning			✓	✓	✓

Practically speaking, I feel most of the home users may go for the Home Premium edition, small businesses with the Business edition and large enterprises with the Enterprise edition. To find out which edition suits your requirements get in touch with our engineers at ServerPlex. They will analyze your requirements and provide you with an economical and suitable solution.

Which version of Windows Vista should you Opt For?

If you are confused whether to choose between a full version or an upgrade version, then I would suggest you to go for an upgrade because it is easier on your pocket. However, you can upgrade only those computers that have one of the Windows XP or Windows 2000 editions installed on them.

If you choose to upgrade, you get two choices - In-place install and Clean install. The type of upgrade you can do depends on the version of Windows XP or Windows 2000 on your computer.

- In-place install: Installs Windows Vista directly over your previous Windows version and all your applications, files and settings remain intact.
- Clean install: Requires you to make a backup of all your files because a clean install deletes the previous operating system, files and settings. You will have to restore them after the upgrade.

The table given here illustrates the types of upgrade you can perform on your system.

Old Operating System	Home Basic	Home Premium	Business	Ultimate
Windows XP Professional	Clean install	Clean install	In-place install	In-place install
Windows XP Home	In-place install	In-place install	In-place install	In-place install
Windows XP Media Center	Clean install	In-place install	Clean install	In-place install
Windows XP Tablet PC	Clean install	Clean install	In-place install	In-place install
Windows XP Professional 64-bit	Clean install	Clean install	Clean install	Clean install
Windows 2000	Clean install	Clean install	Clean install	Clean install

Note: The versions with in-place install also support clean install.

We at ServerPlex can help you select the upgrade option that suits your requirements and upgrade your current Windows XP or Windows 2000 computer to the desired Windows Vista edition.

Is your computer Windows Vista Capable?

With all these new features, it's true that the minimum hardware requirement for Windows Vista is much more than previous versions. Due to so many different editions, Microsoft has set two levels of hardware requirements-Windows Vista Capable and Windows Vista Premium Ready. A Windows Vista Capable computer does not supports all of the Windows Vista features particularly the Windows Aero Interface.

By following the hardware recommendations below, you can be assured of most pleasant Windows Vista experience.

Hardware Level	Processor	RAM	Graphics Processor	Hard Disk	DVD
Windows Vista Capable	800 MHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64)	512 MB	DirectX 9-capable graphics processor with a minimum of 64 MB and preferably 128 MB of memory	20 GB with at least 15 GB free	Not required
Windows Premium Ready	GHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64)	1 GB	DirectX 9-capable graphics processor that supports WDDM driver support, Pixel Shader 2.0, 32 bits per pixel and a minimum of 128 MB of memory	40 GB with at least 15 GB free	Yes

These are just the minimum requirements. Therefore, for a better performance I would recommend you to exceed these requirements. If you are not sure about the hardware requirements of your computer then contact a ServerPlex engineer today. At ServerPlex we will perform complete analysis of hardware and software requirements of your computer and provide you with a solution that will enhance your Windows Vista experience.

ServerPlex gets you ready for a Windows Vista Experience

The countdown to the release of Windows Vista has officially begun. At ServerPlex Networks, we have a qualified and highly experienced team of technical experts who will make this transition to tomorrow's technology as smooth as possible.

We are pleased to offer efficient and economical **Upgrade to Windows Vista** services to our valued customers. If your present computer configuration is not Windows Vista capable then we can efficiently build a custom Windows Vista capable computer for you.

Our Upgrade to Windows Vista services include:

- Analyzing software and hardware to check its compatibility with Windows Vista
- Customizing and building Windows Vista capable or Windows Vista Premium Ready computers
- Upgrading your current Windows XP or Windows 2000 computer to the desired Windows Vista edition

Become one of the early ones to have the thrilling new Windows Vista on your computer and share your experiences with your friends, colleagues and acquaintances. We at ServerPlex are there to help you reach there by providing our first-rate product, services and prices.

To upgrade your present computer to Windows Vista or check its compatibility, call us today.