

**Sun City Summerlin
Computer Club**

**Microsoft Windows Vista
*A Deeper Look***

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Windows Vista – A Deeper Look

Agenda



- Windows Vista – What Is It?
- What's New and Different?
- Hardware Requirements
- How To Get Windows Vista
- Compatibility Concerns
- Security, Activation and WGA
- Re-learning Windows
- To Upgrade or Not?
- Clean Install With Upgrade DVD
- Early Problems
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Windows Vista – A Deeper Look

Windows Vista - What Is It?

- Successor to Windows XP Home and Professional
- Based on Windows XP and Windows Server 2003
- Versions and Retail Prices:

	Upgrade	Full
– Windows Vista Home Basic	\$99.95	\$199
– Windows Vista Home Premium	\$159	\$239
– Windows Vista Business	\$199	\$299
– Windows Vista Ultimate	\$259	\$399
– Windows Vista Enterprise (Software Assurance only)		
- More Information
 - <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/default.aspx>

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What's New and Different

- No 16-bit DOS or Win 3.1 emulation
- 64-bit Support (but there may not be as many drivers)
- User Account Control (security measure)
- Windows Mail / Calendar
- Internet Explorer 7
- New look and feel (Aero “glass”, if your video is able.)
- Sidebar and Gadgets (requires Aero)
- Enhanced multi-media features (Home Premium)
- Enhanced Search
- More ...

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Hardware Requirements

- **Windows Vista *Capable*:**
 - 800 MHz CPU, 512MB of RAM
 - DirectX 9 Graphics Card
 - 15 GB free hard disk space
- **Windows Vista *Premium Ready* (for Aero Glass):**
 - 1 GHz P4 CPU., 1 GB of RAM
 - DirectX 9 Graphics Card with WDDM driver, Pixel Shader 2, 32 bits / pixel (for Aero glass UI)
 - 15 GB free hard disk space on a 40GB drive
- **Tom's *Recommended Standard Configuration*:**
 - 2 GHz single P4 CPU or more, 1 GB of RAM or more
 - DirectX 9 Graphics Card with WDDM driver, Pixel Shader 2, 32 bits / pixel (for Aero glass UI)
 - 40 GB free hard disk space on a 80GB drive or more
- **Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor**
 - <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getready/upgradeadvisor/default.aspx>

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How To Get Windows Vista

- **Easiest – Buy a *new PC*!**
 - Windows Vista comes pre-installed
 - Product Activation handled by the hardware vendor
 - Windows Vista tested and verified by the vendor
 - Still need to install your other applications and tools
- **Buy and install a retail copy of Windows Vista**
 - Upgrade or “New”
 - First run the Vista Upgrade Advisor
 - Upgrade your PC hardware as needed / desired
 - Choice of “Upgrade” installation or “Clean” installation
 - Get (or pay) someone to install Vista Upgrade on your PC
 - Or (for more excitement) ... Do the install *yourself!*

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Win Vista Upgrade Paths

- **Windows 98 / ME / NT4 to Vista (not supported)**
- **XP Home to Vista Home Basic / Home Premium**
 - Easiest to just do “upgrade over” the existing OS.
 - Disable / remove Norton, McAfee or AVG AV first.
 - Can do “clean” install, but will have to reinstall all apps. (May be an issue if all you have is a “recovery” CD)
- **XP Pro (not Home) to Vista Business**
 - Same procedures, issues.
- **XP (any) to Vista Ultimate**
 - Same procedures, issues.

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Vista Compatibility Issues

- **Hardware**
 - BIOS (might be out of date on old PCs)
 - No Vista hardware drivers from MS or vendors
 - Video and Sound cards
 - SCSI Disk Controllers and Wireless LAN cards
 - Printers and Scanners
- **System Utility / Tool Software**
 - Anti-virus programs
 - CD Burners
 - FAX, Scan and Print Tools
- **Application Software – Especially OLD Programs**
 - Games
 - Graphics applications
 - Video processing
 - Music Processing

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New Security Features

- **Security**
 - Major focus of Vista development effort.
 - Many fixes deal with Internet Explorer and E-mail.
- **Windows Vista more resistant to mal-ware by design.**
- **Better Support for hardware Data Execution Protection.**
- **Vista provides a built-in “two-way” fire wall.**
 - But outbound default is to NOT block or warn!
- **Vista also includes built-in Windows Defender.**
 - Anti-spyware scanner and blocker.
- **User Account Control (See next slide).**
- **Better support for data encryption (Vista Business).**

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User Account Control

- **Can define any number of user accounts (Logins).**
 - Each account has a unique username and password.
- **Each account has a separate top-level personal folder.**
 - C:\Documents and Settings\ - This personal contains subfolders for documents, favorites, application settings, cookies, etc.
- **Each account can have a designated privilege level.**
 - Administrator or Limited.
 - Some applications or actions require Administrator access.
- **In Windows Vista, Administrator accounts are limited.**
 - User must confirm certain actions like installing programs or changing key system settings.
 - This makes it much more difficult for mal-ware to secretly infect PCs.

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Windows Genuine Advantage

- Newest MS “anti-piracy” system - also on XP.
 - Combination of installed software and web databases.
 - Vista’s WGA “phones home” regularly.
- A specific retail copy of Windows Vista can only be installed on **one system at a time** (family and volume licenses available).
- Can call MS to get a new Activation Key if you need to reinstall and reactivate. You *must* have your Product Key.
- If you **bought** a new PC, make sure you have the Product Key (should be on back of case).
- WGA also regularly verifies your license is “valid”.
 - If not, Windows Vista **degrades into a limited function mode** until you “pay up” to get a valid license.
 - Can’t download updates, only one hour of Internet, other blocks.

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Re-Learning Windows

- Where IS it?
 - New Vista GUI has moved many things around.
 - Some things easier to find, but many not.
 - Can set up Vista GUI for “classic (Win 98)” mode.
- How do I DO that?
 - Many new features require new learning.
 - Tutorial and Help and Support Center.
 - Task oriented panels in all Explorer windows.
- Bonanza for book and training vendors

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To Upgrade or Not

- **Windows Vista will ship pre-installed on most new PCs.**
 - \$700 to \$900 buys a very nice “Premium Ready” PC with 17” flat panel.
- **For existing Windows XP users**
 - Not recommended unless your hardware is pretty new.
 - If Vista “in-place” upgrade fails, you can’t revert back to XP. (So you really need to make a whole system backup first!)
 - If you do upgrade, plan on spending ~ \$100 for other software.
 - You can add WMP 11 and IE 7 to Windows XP. (Free downloads from Microsoft or cheap CDs).
- **Windows Product Activation / Windows Genuine Advantage**
 - Forces you to buy a separate copy of Vista for each PC.
- **Vista Hot Fixes and Service Packs already in development.**
- **MS now says Win XP Home “Extended Support” to 2014.**

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Clean Install with Upgrade DVD

- **No need to purchase the “Full” version of Vista.**
- **Feature of Vista’s “Upgrade” Setup DVD**
 - Do this with an empty hard drive / partition.
 - Boot the setup CD
 - Do the Clean Install in Trial Mode (don’t enter the product key).
- **Boot your new Trial Mode Vista hard drive / partition**
- **Reinsert your Vista Upgrade Setup DVD**
 - Vista’s setup will detect the Trial version of Vista
 - It will if you wish to upgrade that version
 - Reply Yes or OK
 - Now, when asked, enter the Upgrade Product Key
- **The Vista Upgrade will now proceed with the install.**
- **When it’s done, you have a valid, clean Vista installation.**

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Problems Found

- Acronis True Image 10 - clones of Vista won't boot.
- AVG 7.5 – Not compatible.
- MusicMatch Jukebox 10 – not compatible, won't install.
 - But WinAmp 5.3.2 (free) works fine.
 - Media Player 11 works, but new UI is a pain.
- Visual Studio 6 (programming)
 - Issues with VC++
 - Issues with some VB6 custom controls.
- Visual Studio.Net 2003 (programming) – Not compatible!
- IE7 – Won't allow "Add to Favorites" on my box.
 - Happens when adding to a folder within Favorites.
 - This was after I copied Favorites from XP to Vista.
 - Found a fix (icacls command) after searching on the forums.

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Windows Vista – Web Links

- Microsoft Windows Vista Site
<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista>
- PC Magazine: Windows Vista Review
<http://www.pcmag.com/category2/0,1874,1786052,00.asp>
- PC World: Windows Page
<http://www.pcworld.com/ic/windows/>
- PC Pit Stop Vista Readiness Test
<http://www.pcpitstop.com/vistaready/default.asp>
- Windows IT Pro Rolling Out Vista
<http://www.windowitpro.com/Windows/Issues/IssueID/867/Index.html>

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Questions And Answers

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