

Computer Tips

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Windows XP vs Windows Vista

Back in February 2007, Windows Vista was launched, and the world became divided as to whether Vista was worth the upgrade from Windows XP. I mean, Windows XP has been around since 2002, had several good patches, and is regarded by most as a stable and dependable operating system.

Now, 18 months since the public release of Vista, has it improved? Is Vista worth the upgrade? Or is Windows XP still the best operating system to use?

I have been using Vista Ultimate on my work computer here for the past 4 months, and I must say I have found Vista surprisingly good to work with. My original reservation for moving to Vista was due to the fact that a lot of drivers and software programs would not run with it. Even Windows Vista itself had several issues, making it not as reliable as you would want. That however has changed.

Every major computer supplier has had Vista drivers available for their range of products since mid 2007. Since then too, software manufacturers have provided Vista compatibility with their current products, or provided updates to their older programs. This makes available more options for those who do make the move to Windows Vista.

Microsoft themselves has released the first collection of patches for Windows Vista, called Service Pack 1. This has addressed several problems in the original Vista release, improving it and making Vista more stable and secure.

Overall, Windows Vista comes with several new features and enhancements over Windows XP. These include better networking, better sound, a new look and feel, new file searching capabilities, better security, better and easier program installation methods, and several technical additions built-in that were only add-ons for Windows XP.

Windows Vista however looks and acts differently to Windows XP, and this should be taken into account in a decision to upgrade. Will your software run on Windows Vista, or will you need a newer version of the program? Will you need new equipment to run the more resource hungry operating system? For businesses, Vista would require some retraining of staff, and possible changes to business procedures, etc.

What if you don't want Windows Vista, and still like Windows XP. Can I still buy it? The answer is, Yes you can! We have had several customers relate to us about how they were pressured into buying Windows Vista, being told XP is no longer available. While Windows XP is no longer available for sale in retail shops, Windows XP is still available to computer system builders.

Even this however is about to change. As of January 2009, Microsoft will no longer distribute Windows XP to system builders to sell on PC's capable of running Vista.

So if you are in the market for a new or upgraded computer, and want to run XP rather than Vista, now is the time to act. We can custom build your PC to your specifications & yes, you can run Windows XP.



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