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RIP XP, Vista - Here Comes Windows 7

It seems like only yesterday that we were describing Vista as the new successor to XP, which itself doesn't seem all that old. However XP was released nearly eight years ago, and in April 2009 Microsoft announced the end of mainstream support for XP (critical security updates will continue for five years).

Vista will not enjoy such a long life. Released in January 2007, it is already being tagged for early retirement - Vista's successor, dubbed Windows 7, is already available as a beta download and it's generally rumored that the final release will be bundled with new computers for the 2009 holiday season. Officially, any computers purchased after June 1st will also be eligible for a free upgrade from Vista to Win7.

The OCS website steadily receives more than a quarter-million page views every month. Statistics show that some 67% of those viewers are still using XP, while only 22% are using Vista.* So, we're anticipating a busy year in our shop as a large number of customers will likely start moving up from XP. (*About 3% are using Windows versions older than XP, 6% are using Macs, and 2% are using Linux and others.)

According to a recent article in TechRepublic, an industry trade journal, here are a few questions to consider when planning an upgrade to Windows 7:

- 1. Will I need to buy new hardware?** If your computer is powerful enough to run Vista acceptably, probably not. For Windows 7, a 1 GHz processor and 1 GB of RAM are the recommended minimums.
- 2. Can I upgrade directly from XP?** No. An in-place upgrade is available only if you're running Vista SP1 or later. If you're running XP, even if your hardware is sufficient, you'll have to do a clean installation of Win7 or consider buying a new machine.
- 3. Will there be compatibility issues?** Most drivers and applications that run on Vista should run on Windows 7. For any exceptions, a compatibility option will be available to select which older operating system mode you need to emulate. Interestingly, some applications that ran on XP and would not run on Vista *will* run on Windows 7. Win7 Pro will also include a fully licensed copy of XP that runs in a virtual machine on Win7 computers - according to Microsoft, with XPM you will be able to run any XP application on Windows 7.

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EMAIL CHANGE ALERT - SEE OUR WEBSITE

**349,144,919 VIRUSES, SPAM, AND PHISHING ATTEMPTS
HAVE BEEN STOPPED BY THE OCS CENTRAL SYSTEM
THAT'S OVER 15 MILLION IN JUST THE LAST MONTH!**

Fresno Sheriff Issues Warning to Parents

Fresno Sheriff Margaret Mims has issued a warning to parents to begin paying closer attention to whom their children are text messaging and with whom they're communicating on the Internet. In particular, she said that children with cell phones that have email and Internet access features are especially vulnerable to exploitation.

Tulare County is within the Fresno district of the federal ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) Task Force. Much more help and information is available at fresnoicac.org and netsmartz.org.



“Monthly YouTube traffic is now equivalent to the total bandwidth generated across the entire Internet in all of 2000.” *Story on Page Two*

The OCS home page has received more than 12.5 million hits - contact us for local advertising information!

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If you refer a friend, family, or business associate to OCS, tell them to mention your name and you'll receive up to a month of free service! **Our subscribers have earned \$56,886 so far** - click *Referrals* on our home page for details! Your friends may simply click *Subscribe* to sign up online.



XP, Vista and Windows 7

Continued from Page One

4. Should I wait for Windows 7 to buy a new computer? Buying a Vista system after June 1st will make you eligible for a free Windows 7 upgrade license (applies to Vista Home Premium, Business, and Ultimate editions).

5. Which edition of Windows 7 should I choose? Most people will find that either Home Basic, Premium or Pro will fit their needs.

6. What are the main reasons to upgrade to Windows 7? If you're still running XP, an important consideration is the fact that Microsoft support for XP ended on April 14. Although critical security updates will still be provided at no cost until 2014, additional support is provided only to customers who pay for a support contract.

The most important reason to upgrade from XP is that both Vista and Windows 7 provide much better security. Consumers with children will also appreciate Win7's parental control features.

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Study says cyberspace is filling up

Why the OCS bandwidth usage policy matters

According to a new report by technology think tank Nemertes Research, the amount of traffic generated each month by YouTube alone is now equivalent to the total generated across the entire Internet in all of 2000.

Experts predict that consumer demand, already growing at 60% per year, will start to exceed capacity from as early as next year due to more people working online and the soaring popularity of bandwidth-hungry websites such as YouTube, other online video services, and services such as online backup. (*The OCS online backup system which we described last year would have avoided most of these bandwidth issues, but there was too little feedback or interest to justify the service.)

Rather than a complete failure, models predict increasing Internet slowdowns and brownouts when access demand is greater than capacity. These disturbances may already be occurring, though they are yet to be systemic or even predictable.

In order to provide better bandwidth management, some service providers are putting caps on usage (as OCS has been doing for many years). The justification is better network reliability so that the minority of users who download the most do not negatively impact the vast majority of average users.

However, as more so-called "rich content" is placed online, trends suggest that today's exceptional user will be tomorrow's mainstream user. And, since promoters of online video and other rich content services are not at the same time providing the bandwidth for these applications, they are simply dumping that responsibility (and cost) onto the ISPs and end users.

Research does not predict which bandwidth-hungry applications will be developed, only that by laws of innovation they surely will be. In 2008, leading "bandwidth hogs" were online streaming of the Beijing Olympics, the Democrat and Republican national conventions, daily online system backups, and online movie and high-definition television services.

The report warns that an unreliable Internet becomes merely a toy. "For business purposes, such as delivering medical records between hospitals in real time, it's useless. People today know how home computers slow down when the kids get back from school and start playing games, but by 2012 that traffic jam could last all day long."

OCS will never allow that to happen within our network, however we have no control over content that must first get here over the global Internet – and that's the real problem.



"I want to give a great deal of credit to OCS customer service. They assisted me with patience and professionalism, and they reflect well on your company and the level of customer service your organization consistently offers." -TK, 4/2009

OACYS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Plan Name	Average Speeds			B-M-W ¹	One-Time Fees			Monthly Service
	Min	Typ	Max		Service Activation	Install/Configure	Equipment Deposit	
1 Bandwidth-Mailboxes-Webspace (see notes)								
DIALUP	26K	40K	53K	1-5-5	25.00	-	-	24.95
Accelerator	Typically 2-5X faster			-	-	-	-	+5.00
WIRELESS STANDARD 2.4 GHz								
24 Basic	125K	500K	750K	10-5-5	25.00	100.00	100.00	49.95 ^{2,3}
24 Premium	250K	1M	1.5M	15-5-5	25.00	100.00	100.00	79.95 ^{2,3}
24 Business	375K	1.5M	2M	20-10-10	25.00	100.00	100.00	129.95 ^{2,3}
WIRELESS SPECIAL CASES 900 MHz (where available)								
900 Basic	125K	375K	750K	5-5-5	25.00	100.00	100.00	59.95 ^{4,5}
WIRELESS MISSION CRITICAL 5.8 GHz (where available)								
58 Premium	250K	1M	1.5M	15-5-5	25.00	100.00	100.00	99.95
58 Business	375K	1.5M	2M	20-10-10	25.00	100.00	100.00	129.95
58 Professional	500K	2M	3M	25-25-25	25.00	100.00	100.00	159.95
58 Corporate	750K	3M	4M	30-30-30	25.00	100.00	100.00	199.95
58 Enterprise	1M	4M	5M	40-40-40	25.00	100.00	100.00	249.95

All plans include automated central email virus scanning, email spam filtering, and website parental controls. Some plan types permit webspace for personal use only. Wireless installation and deposit package may be paid in installments upon request. All speeds are symmetrical (same for upload and download) within the OACYS network only. All plans terminate at OACYS Porterville headquarters and transport to the Internet via dual T3s over dedicated OC12 fiber optic circuit. All plans subject to change without notice. Pricing and terms are current at the date of this newsletter and supersede previous versions. For footnotes 2,3,4,5 surcharges may apply. Please check with our office for additional details.

I Didn't Know That!

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