Tuesday, 27th March 2007

HELLO, GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME

COMPUTING: Windows Vista Lands

Windows Vista, the new version of Windows (previously known as Longhorn), has been released. Windows Vista is being shipped with many new computers and you can also buy upgrades from computer stores.

Windows Vista is the "client" or "workstation" edition of Windows, the successor to Windows XP, released in 2001. (The server version, the successor to Windows Server 2003, will be released later, and will probably be called **Windows Server 2007**.)

Should I upgrade my current computer to Windows Vista?

Probably not. Many machines purchased in 2005 or earlier are not likely to run Windows Vista particularly well. Although the official system requirements are much lower, a more practical guideline is 1-2Gb RAM, 256Mb video memory and 100Gb hard disk drive. Even if you have a very new system (2006 or later), to get the best experience you may still need to upgrade the memory, graphics adaptor and other peripherals.

There are also issues such as BIOS compatibility and hardware drivers. You should only use Windows Vista on a system certified by the manufacturer as "Vista Capable" or "Vista Premium Ready" — but nevertheless, be prepared to install BIOS upgrades and updated drivers before and/or after installation.

Thus the capacity and compatibility issues, plus the cost of the retail upgrade package ($199 to $499 depending on version), may make the whole exercise too costly to be worth the benefits.

Should I have Windows Vista installed on a new computer?

If you're in a business, government or corporate environment you probably use a number of important line-of-business applications and these will need to be tested thoroughly, so it's fairly unlikely that IT administrators will want Windows Vista on their networks just yet. On the other hand, introducing a small number of Windows Vista systems via new PC acquisitions may be a good way to ease into it, especially if you have some users who can start using Windows Vista without needing training.

If you're buying a new system that will be stand-alone, or in a small business, you'll probably be fine with Windows Vista if you're using a modern version of all your programs, such as Microsoft Office. However, it's early days and you may have some troubles with, say, printer drivers, or getting a scanner to work but, over time, having Windows Vista on new systems will be preferable to Windows XP despite the short-term effort.

Will Windows Vista work with all my hardware and software?

Some products will work with Windows Vista unchanged, some will require updates and some won't work at all. Some vendors are refusing to support Windows Vista for their older products and require the purchase of an upgrade.

Before using Windows Vista, whether upgrading or starting fresh, check with vendors' websites and the Windows Vista Hardware Compatibility List (http://winqual.microsoft.com/hcl/) for information about compatibility. The answers may not change your opinion about whether to use Windows Vista, but it's better to be forewarned about any problems rather than discover something won't work at the last minute.

Cadzow 2000 works with 32-bit Windows Vista, although you'll need version 2006.09.004 or better to support Windows Mail (the new Outlook Express). We haven't done any testing on 64-bit Windows Vista yet, although it works on 64-bit Windows XP Professional.

Which version of Windows Vista should I use?

Windows Vista comes in many flavours: **Home Basic**, **Home Premium**, **Business**, **Enterprise** and **Ultimate**. There are also some extra editions not available in Australia.

Generally speaking, **Windows Vista Home Premium** is best for home systems, and **Windows Vista Business** is best for small office, small business, and many corporate environments.

Windows Vista Enterprise is suited to large organisations, or those with a complex infrastructure, and **Windows Vista Ultimate** is best suited to the enthusiast, or business users whose computer doubles as a home or entertainment system. These two also support the whole-volume encryption feature called Bitlocker so they're appropriate for people with very sensitive data.

SEE MORE IN THE FULL ARTICLE AT: http://www.cadzow.com.au/?Article=1811

CADZOW SOFTWARE: New Stuff

Cash Sale Invoices: After you commit an invoice that has COD terms, the receipting screen will now keep prompting for payments until you stop. This makes it possible to accept multiple payments for a cash sale (eg. some cash and some credit card), or to accept a part payment and leave the rest on account.

Enquiries: Many Enquiries options have been made much faster.

Stock Control: Stock adjustments can now be assigned to departments.

MISSING EMAIL: Part Three — Quarantined Email

Many ISPs are now automatically applying spam filtering. This is supposed to keep spam out of your Inbox so you don't even need to download it. However, generally they don't tell you what's been filtered and you still need to regularly check the "Quarantine" folder by logging in to your mailbox on the web. Furthermore, many ISPs started doing this without any warnings or announcements so you may not know when or if it started. The upshot is you may have legitimate mail being quarantined in error ("false positives"), you won't know it's there and the sender won't know it didn't reach you → CHAOS.

Some people don't care much about their email, but for many businesses it is mission-critical and they can't tolerate email that vanishes. Thus we generally suggest ISP filtering be disabled, so all your email is delivered and you can make a choice about what's spam and what isn't. Of course the downside is that you'll get more spam, but spam filtering is not perfect, and most likely will never be good enough that you can immediately delete it without looking at it. Spammers have shown over many years that they can defeat filtering either with new techniques or the plain brute force of volume. That's not to say spam filtering is pointless, but it should be done on your computer and not upstream at the provider.

Next newsletter: Why you get spam and what you can do to stop it.

SEE MORE IN THE FULL ARTICLE AT: http://www.cadzow.com.au/?Article=1135

NEWS, In Other

Congratulations to our Fearless Leader, Melissa Cadzow, who recently achieved two more industry certifications: as a **Microsoft Certified Solution Developer** and **Microsoft Certified Application Developer** (both in Microsoft .NET). Her first Microsoft certification was for Word for Windows 2.0 back in 1993!

Microsoft®
C E R T I F I E D
Solution Developer

COMEDY, Great Moments In

"The only question I ever thought was hard,
Was, do I like Kirk or do I like Picard?"

White and Nerdy, 'Weird Al' Yankovic (2006)