

## Windows Vista

Windows Vista is the next generation operating system currently being developed by Microsoft. Vista, if it is not pushed back, will be released in January of 2007. Originally this software was going to be released at the end of 2005. This new operating system promises to vastly improve the reliability, security, and usefulness of your computer. Well, maybe not your computer, the minimum system specifications are quite hefty.

According to Microsoft, Vista will require at least an 800mhz processor, 512 meg ram, and about 10 gigs of hard drive space. Honestly though, I would not trust Microsoft's minimum specification because they also list the minimum system specification for Windows XP as needing a 300mhz processor, 128 meg ram, and just 1.5 gigs of hard drive space. Now granted, you can run Windows XP on a computer this slow, I have seen it with my own eyes. These computers are in my shop because the owners are having trouble using the computer due to the unbearable slowness! It is this kind of experience that leads me to recommend that you stick with Microsoft's recommended specifications.

I recommend you install Vista on at least a Pentium 4 grade computer, with at least 1 gig of ram, and a fast 40 gig or larger hard drive. With these kind of specification the average computer user will most likely find it difficult to upgrade to Vista. Worse yet, I'm sure many folks will buy and install the upgrade version only to find out later that they need to spend more money to upgrade the hardware in their system.

Microsoft is planning to release five versions of Vista. Business, Enterprise, Home Premium, Home Basic, and Ultimate. Most people will probably use the Home Basic or the Home Premium versions. I imagine the lower cost systems will ship with the Basic version. This version is most like the Windows XP Home version. Basic is great for the average person who needs to surf the Internet, write an article, and edit some pictures. The Home Premium version is most like the Windows XP Media Center Edition. This version will be better suited for higher end computers loaded with multimedia options such as TV tuners and 3D graphic cards. Other versions the average user will most likely not use include: Vista Business, which will replace Windows XP Pro and Vista Ultimate which will replace the Windows XP Tablet Version. Lastly the Enterprise version will only be available to corporate users through the volume licensing program.

I want to stress that just because Vista is newer and more advanced, it does not mean that it will increase the speed of your computer. In fact, many people will find that their system will run much slower then it did before if they choose to upgrade to this new operating system. It is important that you weigh the pros and cons before you decide to install this new operating system.

Now that I have introduced you to Windows Vista, next week we will talk about some of the features that will be in this operating system. Until then, if you need help with your computer call Thomas, Roger, or Aaron at Computer Depot, 947-0749 or e-mail me at [computerdepotonline@att.net](mailto:computerdepotonline@att.net).