

Solutions

Windows 7: Should You Upgrade?

What is all the fanfare about Windows 7? Windows 7 is the newly released operating system by Microsoft. Microsoft's last attempt at a new operating system was at the start of 2007. Microsoft released Windows Vista at that time, which had many issues due to incompatibility with hardware drivers and software. Microsoft had not released early beta versions of the Windows Vista operating system to hardware and software manufacturers so that they could get their software and drivers ready for the new operating system. This was a major mistake for Microsoft, who typically stops all sales of the previous operating systems shortly after a new one is released, so that consumers are forced to purchase the new one. Since consumers could not use their business software reliably and had issues with existing hardware and drivers in Windows Vista, they were outraged. The public outcry was heard and Microsoft had to make a decision to continue to sell Windows XP, which it had planned on retiring. Since the release of Windows Vista, most firms would not purchase Windows Vista pc's and continued to implement Windows XP pc's. Windows XP is now an eight year old operating system, so the fanfare for a "new" and "improved" operating system from Microsoft; Windows 7.

Although Microsoft's new operating system has a new name, is it really new? Windows 7 is an improved version of Windows Vista. Microsoft has spent the past two and a half years working on their operating system and has made major changes to fix the issues and make enhancements. Hardware and software manufacturers have also had two and a half years to work on their software and hardware drivers to make them compatible with Windows Vista and Windows 7. Today, 98% of hardware and software manufacturers have compatible versions of software and hardware drivers for Windows 7, compared to only 60% that had compatible versions when Windows Vista was released in 2007.

There are three versions of Windows 7: Home Premium, Professional, and Ultimate. Windows 7 Home Premium version is for home users and should not be used for a business or when there is a network. Home Premium does not include features like XP compatibility mode, domain join to join the pc to a network, and advanced system backup/restore. Windows 7 Professional is for business use

Is a Netbook right for you?

Today, we email text, chat, blog, and IM (Instant Message), to communicate quickly with others. We use Facebook, MySpace, Classmates, LinkIn, and other professional organization websites to stay connected with one another and we use our Internet capable pc's, notebooks, and smartphones to accomplish this. We have become a society where everyone wants all communication with others, right this minute. And to capitalize on society's craze for instantaneous communication, hardware manufacturers are heavily marketing their latest technology device, the netbook, also referred to as a mini. This device fits in between the capabilities of a smartphone and a notebook computer. According to sales figures of netbooks for the past year and the projected figures for this year and next, manufacturers are cashing in big! These devices have been around for a few years, but now, mainstream hardware manufacturers, such as HP (Hewlett Packard) and Dell have their own offerings and are making a huge effort to get these devices into your hands. There are many commercials on television for netbooks, especially since it is back to school time for college students. They are attractively priced between \$300 to \$500, but what are you getting for your money? It looks very similar to a notebook, but what is different about them other than the name. It is important for you to understand the functionality and capability of a netbook so that you can make an informed decision about whether one is right for you.

The name for the device has been around for over ten years and there were some early releases in the late 1990's, but they did not catch on and were discontinued. It has been within the past two years that consumers have become aware of netbooks. The reason for the failed attempts in the past was that the technology industry needed to mature and more importantly, consumers consumption and usage of the Internet: emailing, IM'ing, chatting, and blogging. The word netbook is a general term for these technology devices, similar to the word laptop or notebook. It is a small light weight notebook that is designed to be used for wireless access via LAN and Internet. No more than an inch thick and weighing less than 3 pounds, with a built-in web camera, it is no wonder why these devices are catching on and so attractive to the mobile computer user.

The HP Mini 5102 has the following:

- Three colors: red, blue or black
- Intel® Atom™ Processor N450 (1.66 GHz, 512 KB L2 cache, 667 MHz FSB)
- 16GB or 32GB Solid State Hard Drive
- 3 USB Ports
- Intel Graphics Media Accelerator HD
- 10.1" Display
- Integrated 2 MP webcam
- Wireless Card Capable
- Mobile Broadband Capable (AT&T, Verizon, Sprint)
- 4-cell (29 WHr) Li-Ion; 6-cell (66 WHr) high capacity Li-Ion
- Integrated Marvell Ethernet
- ENERGY STAR® qualified configurations available
- Bluetooth Capable
- RJ-45 Port
- VGA Port
- Built-in Stereo Speakers
- Non-touch screen: starting at 2.64 lb (1.2 kg)
- Touch screen: starting at 2.86 lb (1.3 kg)
- 1 Year Manufacturer Warranty
- Starting at \$399

For more information or pricing contact John D'Amico at ext. 204

Comcast: Internet Options

- **Preferred Internet** \$89.95/mo
 - Speed 16 Mbps down/2 Mbps up
 - Intergrated Modem/Router with Firewall
- **Premium Internet** \$99.95/mo
 - Speed 22 Mbps down/5 Mbps up
- **Deluxe Internet** \$189.95/mo
 - Speed 50 Mbps down/10 Mbps up
- **Installation Fees**
 - 1 year \$199.00
 - 2 year \$99.00
 - 3 Year Waived

Call us to see if Comcast is available at your location and is available options for your broadband needs.

Announcing - Time Matter 10

LexisNexis recently released Time Matters 10 Practice Management Software. Time Matters 10 uses a SQL database for enhanced performance, improved search speed, and better scalability. Historically, Time Matters had two separate editions: Professional and Enterprise. The Enterprise Edition has always had a SQL database. The Professional Edition used a Paradox database. All Time Matters installation will now be SQL based and can run on your SQL Server or you can install SQL Express that comes with Time Matters. SQL Express is limited to 20 users and a database size of 4GB. Either option provides faster operations and a more stable software usage experience.

Some of the other new features include:

- **Time Matters Desktop Extensions:** Access your calendar, contact information and notes from your desktop without opening Time Matters.

- **New backup functionality:** Set up automated backups using the Windows scheduler.

- **New Comprehensive Power View:** Shows all the information about a case in one easily accessible place.

- **Enhanced merge templates:** Organize your merge template into sub-folders.

With this new release, comes the announcement that Time Matters 7.0 will no longer be supported as of 12/31/09. Upgrades to Time Matters 10 are obtained by purchasing an Annual Maintenance Plan. Prices vary depending upon which version you are currently using.

For more information contact Alicia Slade at ext. 202 or Leslie Hennessy at ext. 228

QuickBooks: What's new for 2010?

QuickBooks 2010 is the best yet. The interface is even more user friendly, it's easier to use and will save even more time.

- Improved Company Snapshot
- Improved Report Center
- New Favorites Menus
- Improved Forms Customization
- Improved Online Banking
- New Add/Edit Multiple List Entries

For more information contact Alicia Slade at ext. 202 or Leslie Hennessy at ext. 228

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