



## Is your business ready? Practical points to consider when looking to invest in Windows Vista

Is it essential for my company to invest straight away? Probably not is the simple answer if you have only recently upgraded your hardware. However, if you are due to upgrade your hardware, Windows Vista is certainly something that your business will benefit from.

## What do I need to think about when buying new hardware?

Microsoft has the following recommendations for running the different editions:-

### Windows Vista Home Basic

- 1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor
- 512 MB of system memory
- Support for DirectX 9 graphics and 32 MB of graphics memory
- 20 GB hard drive with 15 GB free space
- DVD-ROM drive
- Audio output
- Internet access

## Will it operate on my company's existing hardware?

PCs purchased in the last two years stand a good chance of being able to run Windows Vista. To install and run the core functionality, Windows Vista requires a minimum of:-

- An 800 MHz processor
- 512 MB RAM
- 20 GB hard drive with 15 GB of free space

### Windows Vista Ultimate, Home Premium, Enterprise, and Business

- 1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor
- 1 GB of system memory
- Support for DirectX 9 graphics with a WDDM driver, 128MB of graphics memory
- 40GB hard drive with 15GB free space
- DVD-ROM Drive
- Audio output
- Internet access

## There seem to be a number of different versions of Windows Vista – which are for business?

Windows Vista is available in five main versions.

Full package products (FPP) are available from computer retailers, OEM products are available when purchased with a new PC (e.g. from such companies as Dell, HP etc), volume licensing products

are available when purchased through a volume licensing program such as Open Business and Open Value. Software Assurance (SA) products are only available with a volume licensing program which includes software assurance.

Version	Availability
Windows Vista™ Home Basic	FPP, OEM
Windows Vista™ Home Premium	FPP, OEM
Windows Vista™ Business	FPP, OEM, Volume Licensing
Windows Vista™ Enterprise	SA
Windows Vista™ Ultimate	FPP,OEM

Windows Vista Home Basic and Home Premium are aimed at the consumer market and can be thought of as the replacements to Windows XP Home and Windows XP Media Center respectively.

Windows Vista Business is the replacement to Windows XP Pro and Windows Vista Enterprise is a new version available only to organisations which have opted for Software Assurance in conjunction with their Volume Licensing agreement. Windows Vista Ultimate incorporates all the functionality of the consumer and business versions but is not intended for use in businesses.

# New features of Windows Vista and how they impact on the small business

Windows Vista incorporates many enhancements and new features when compared to Windows XP. Infrastructure improvements reduce day-to-day maintenance, while new features make it easier to find, organise, and share information.

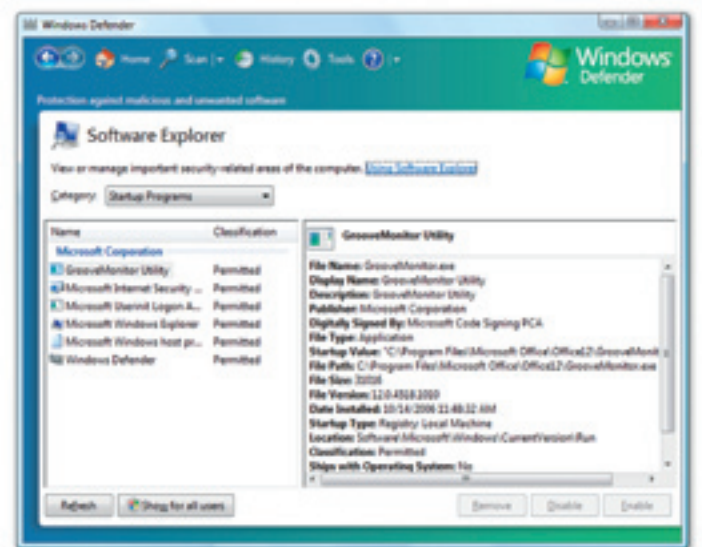
## Security: Keeping your company's PCs running more securely with less IT support

- Windows Firewall – enhanced version
- Windows Defender - helps tackle Spyware
- User Account Control
- Windows Bit locker™
- Windows Backup and Restore Center

• **Windows Firewall – enhanced version** A firewall is a critical first line of defence against many types of malware (e.g. viruses and worms). Properly configured, it can stop many kinds of malware before they can infect your computer or other computers on your network.

With the introduction of Windows XP Service Pack 2, Microsoft provided a functional and manageable firewall. Windows Firewall which comes with Windows Vista is an enhanced version, is turned on by default and begins protecting your computer as soon as Windows starts. The Windows Firewall Control Panel is designed to be easy to use with several configuration options and a simple interface.

• **Windows Defender - dealing with the growing challenge of spyware** The significant increase in spyware continues to present businesses of all sizes with increasing security concerns. Windows Defender helps detect and remove spyware and can be configured to regularly scan computers for infection. Windows Defender automatically updates itself against the latest threats using the built-in Windows Update mechanism.



• **User Account Control** can be used as another layer of protection against malicious software. With User Account Control, employees run as standard users instead of administrators – without limiting their productivity. This helps prevent the potential damage a user can do by installing software that may be hiding a virus or spyware.

• **Windows Bit locker™** This is a new Windows Vista security feature that encrypts an entire hard disk, reducing the risk of anyone being able to steal data from the computer in the event of loss or theft. This feature is only available in the Enterprise and Ultimate editions.

• **Windows Backup and Restore Center** enables users to easily backup their data or entire hard disk (this option is only available in Business, Enterprise and Ultimate editions) to a CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, an external hard disk connected to the PC, another hard disk on the PC or to another PC / server on the network. Backup is as simple as deciding where to backup to, what type of information should be backed up and how often the backup is performed.

# Making it easier to find, organise and share information with Windows Vista

Microsoft has incorporated a number of new features that whilst not critical, make everyday tasks easier and are useful to know about.

- **Internet Explorer® 7** Microsoft Windows Internet Explorer 7 represents a major step in making everyday tasks easier and provides dynamic security protection.

Navigation of web sites is made easier using tabbed browsing and a web search box available from the toolbar. Improved printing functionality enables web pages to be printed correctly as they can automatically shrink to fit the page.

With integrated support for Really Simple Syndication (RSS), users can easily discover, subscribe to, and read RSS feeds enabling them to access the exact information they want, when it's convenient.

Internet Explorer 7 offers new security features that help defend against malicious software and keep personal data safe from fraudulent websites that use deceptive practices such as phishing.

- **Windows Aero™** Microsoft has created a powerful graphical user interface for Windows Vista and provides two user experiences: Windows Vista Basic and Windows Vista Aero (not available in Windows Vista Home Basic).

Windows Vista Aero provides translucent, glass type effects along with a new three dimensional look and includes new effects such as transition and fading.

The Windows Aero user interface includes visual effects that help users easily navigate between open windows

- **Searching** Windows Vista has vastly improved searching capabilities. Every Explorer window, as well as the Start Menu, contains an Instant Search box where you can enter keywords and quickly find information on your computer or network, whether it's a document, program, contact, e-mail message, Internet Favorite or Office 2007 calendar event.



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If you would like a demonstration of Windows Vista or any advice on your IT strategy, software purchasing plans etc, please contact Simon Bullement a director of hmitc on 020 7969 5500 or email [sbullement@hmitc.co.uk](mailto:sbullement@hmitc.co.uk)

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We specialise in advising organisations with between 1 and 100 technology users – where the in-house expertise and support

may be limited or stretched and where there is concern about the impartiality of systems and software providers.

Our team combines many years of active business and accounting experience with leading edge technology skills in the areas of Microsoft systems, networking, security, systems purchasing and project management as well as numerous business applications.

We have built up a considerable knowledge of best practice whole systems approaches. As a result of our work on Microsoft based systems, we were selected to be a participant in Microsoft's recent Windows Vista Technology Adoption Program.