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The Road to Vista, Part I

Most secure Windows ever. But is it right for you?



WITH ALL THE MEDIA ATTENTION AND PUBLICITY SURROUNDING VISTA, YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING WHAT IS VISTA AND WHY DOES IT MATTER TO ME?

Vista is Microsoft's newest operating system. Microsoft says Vista will make your computer easier, safer, and more entertaining to use and for businesses, the features that seem to garner the most interest are the improved security, reliability, and improved management.

What people first see when using Vista is the new look of the desktop and windows called Aero. (See figure 1.) Aero adds 3D effects and translucent window borders among other effects. The overall appearance of Vista with Aero is very pleasing. It has a slick shininess that's easy to like.

Next is the addition of desktop gadgets. (See figure 2.) Gadgets are mini applications which can reside on the desktop or dock on the side of the screen. Gadgets can connect to websites or business data to display information like weather, news, traffic maps, network status, streaming media, eBay bid status, slide shows, or staff in-out status. The potential is nearly limitless.

The other change people notice right away is the redesigned start menu. (See figure 3.) The default Vista start menu is very different from the start menu in Windows XP. Now instead of looking through a big listing of submenu after submenu to find the program you're looking for, Vista includes a simple search function that searches the programs available through the start menu.

There are many other new features of Vista and the new Vista experience that aren't covered here. See the screen shots for a small sampling.

Which version is right for me?

Vista is available in five different versions: Vista Home Basic, Vista Home Premium, Vista Business,

What if... in regards to your business insurance coverage?

When something unexpected happens.



Guest Writer DJ Colter

Is my business properly insured? Am I overinsured or underinsured? Is professional/products liability covered with my policy? As a business owner, can I ever get discounts on my premium for preventative things I can do? What does my liability protection really cover, even if I am a Inc. or LLC? What if an employee runs an errand for our business, how is that covered in regards to auto insurance? Is my business personal property covered by replacement cost or actual cash value?

Continued on page 3.

Vista Features	Home Basic	Home Premium	Business	Ultimate
Most Secure Windows Ever Includes Windows Defender and Windows Firewall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quickly find what you need With instant search and Internet Explorer 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elegant Windows Aero™ desktop experience With Windows Flip 3D navigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Best choice for notebooks Enhanced Windows mobility center and Tablet PC support		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Collaborate and share documents With Windows Meeting Space		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Experience photos and entertainment With Windows Media Center		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Enjoy Windows Media Center On TVs throughout your home with Xbox 360™ and other devices		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Help protect against hardware failure With advanced business backup features			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Business networking and remote desktop For easier connectivity			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better protect your data Against loss or theft with Windows BitLocker™ Drive Encryption				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Vista Ultimate, and Vista Enterprise.
See the table above for a quick feature comparison.

So which version is right for you? That depends on what you need. The home editions are not intended for use in a business. While ideal for home use, they lack certain features that are desirable if not a necessity for business use.

Vista Home Basic is a stripped down version which still includes the improved security and reliability of Vista, but does not include the new Aero interface, Windows Media Center, or some of the other advanced features of Vista Home Premium. By eliminating those features, Vista Home Basic is less expensive and also less demanding when it comes to the processor speed, RAM, and hard drive space. So Vista Home is ideal for those on a tight budget or trying to upgrade but still use older hardware. Vista Home also features improved parental controls compared to Windows XP.

Vista Home Premium includes all the features of Vista Home Basic, but includes cool features like the advanced Aero interface, Windows Media Center, and Windows DVD Maker.

Vista Business fits the same segment that Windows XP Professional fit. In other words, if you'll be using Vista for business, you want to get at least Vista Business. Vista Business includes the primary features of Vista Home Basic but also includes the Aero interface and features essential for proper use as part of a business network.

Vista Ultimate really is the ultimate version of Vista. It includes the main features of Vista Home Premium and Vista Business. According to Microsoft, Vista Ultimate is the "flagship edition of Windows Vista across consumer and small business desktop PCs and mobile PCs." Vista Ultimate is the ideal edition to use for computers that will be used at home and for work.

Vista Enterprise is "the premium edition of Windows Vista for business desktop and mobile PCs." It's designed for businesses with large or complex desktop deployments and has advanced features like BitLocker Drive Encryption and licensing rights to four virtual operating systems. Vista Enterprise requires certain specific licensing in order to purchase it.

Basically, if you're using Vista at home, get one of the home versions (Home Basic or Home Premium) or Vista Ultimate. For a business computer, get Vista Business, Vista Enterprise, or Vista Ultimate.

If you're concerned about data theft Vista Ultimate with BitLocker™ Drive Encryption is your best choice. This is especially important for laptops which may be misplaced or stolen.

Next month I'll explain how to install Vista on your PC.

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Cont. from front page.

Are my computer/electronic data processing, valuable papers, accounts receivable, records, etc. covered if lost for some reason?

I could go on forever as this is the reason why Ignus, Inc. and their Ultimate IT service can be such a key tool for business owners in the event of a disaster to their business.

As a fellow business owner, many of these questions have come across my mind. It's scary the amount of businesses who come into my office for me to review their insurance with their current company/agency, and don't really know what coverages they have! You pay a lot in premium to not know what is covered. If your policy language is "too confusing and written in Arabic to me" as I have heard many times, have your agent take the time to go over it in detail and explain in "laymen's terms". Every business is so unique in the coverages they need, so I might not know every answer, but all it takes is a call/email to my underwriter to get the answer. As an agent, I always want to pay our claims in the event of a covered loss. I want to sleep at night and not worry if my insureds are properly covered. If you still aren't happy after you review with your agent, there are insurance professionals out there that will take the time to help!

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Certifications Announcements:

Wes Henry has earned the Microsoft Certified Application Developer (MCAD) certification. In addition to the MCAD, Wes has 4 other certification from Microsoft, including MCSE, and 23 other IT industry certifications.

The Microsoft Certified Application Developer (MCAD) credential provides industry recognition for professional developers who build powerful applications using Microsoft Visual Studio .NET and Web services on the Microsoft .NET Framework 1.0 and Microsoft .NET Framework 1.1.

Internal Workings of a Web Project

What exactly happens when a web site is under development?

A web project simply refers to the process of making a website. Whether its three pages or three hundred pages, the process has generally three steps; design, page content and hand-off.

Some sites may include a fourth item, programming, depending on what features the site may need. Some common programming features would include user logins, send mail forms, database administration and data tracking. The programming phase starts after the design phase is completed but, is always in progress up to the point of the hand-off.

Design: The design of a website is what the majority of people think of when they think of what work is done when a website is created. The design is done by a Web Designer who is pretty much a web artist. The web designer gets a good idea of what the customer is looking for with their new website by asking specific questions about the company, their audience, what the site will be used for and if you have any current marketing material the website should match.

Page Content: Once the design is complete and has been approved by the customer the page content is inserted into the website. The page content is what the end web browsing users will see and read when they visit the site. The page content is usually just text, but can include images as well. The use or lack of use of images depends on the design of the site.

Hand-off: The hand-off occurs as the last part of a web project. The hand-off is where the completed website is handed off to the customer. In most cases this is when the website will "go live" by uploading to a hosting account with an File Transfer Protocol application (FTP) this may not seem like part of creating a website but a lot of hang-ups can happen in the hand-off of a website.

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Comments, Questions, Suggestions?
If you have questions, comments, suggestions, or ideas for a topic you'd like to see please contact editor@ignus.com.

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Steps to take to spring clean your computer

Spring clean your computer for better performance, faster processing and a lemony fresh scent.

Historically, spring is a time of cleaning and fresh starts. When most people think of spring cleaning they think of cleaning out the garage or organizing the basement. This spring, consider giving your computer a fresh start. The best and easiest option is simply to bring it to Ignus.

A computer cleanup at Ignus consists of cleaning the interior and exterior of the computer, removal of viruses and spyware and the removal of temp files and other cached files that are unneeded. We blow out the dust that collects inside your case on the fans and heat sink which cause your computer to run hot. After a Computer Cleanup, your computer will run cooler, look better and run faster, like it did when you first bought it.

Virus and Spyware Removal

Antivirus with up to date virus definitions is crucial to keeping your computer running smoothly. Virus definitions are usually updated once a week and a lot of times prevent your computer from getting the latest viruses. Out dated antivirus is almost as bad as not having antivirus at all because you are not protected from the new viruses that are being created on a daily basis.

Spyware causes your computer to act abnormally. It gathers information about the user without their knowledge. Spyware applications install new icons on your desktop or in task bar that will request money to install additional software.

File Management

File fragmentation and temporary files are a major cause of degraded computer performance. Fragmented files are files that have been saved, modified and then saved again. Parts of the file are saved in a location separate from the original and it takes the hard drive longer to access all parts of the file the next time it is opened.

Temporary files are a collection of files only needed for a short period of time. Most of the temp files come from websites. When you view a website, it downloads parts of the page to your computer and these files are left behind when you are done visiting that website. After a while, these files build up and take up space on your hard drive. A hard drive with large amounts of data is going to be slower than an empty one. Another part of the computer cleanup includes the removal of these temp files and the defragmentation of the hard drive.

For lemony freshness bring your computer in to Ignus and ask for a computer cleanup today!