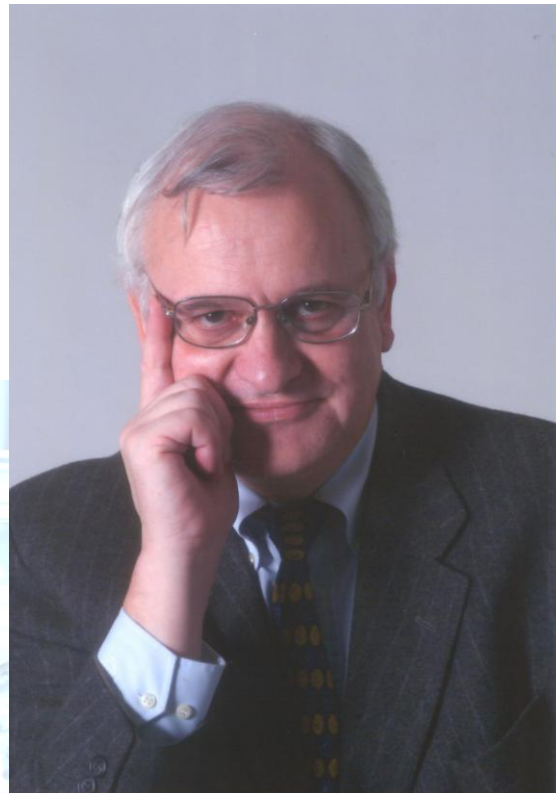


This article was originally published in the Newbury Weekly News Business Review in November 2008.

## **ITMatters**

In this regular column Charles Zealey of ITSolve covers all aspects of business and personal computing. If you have a question about IT matters, email it to Charles on [itmatters@itsolve.co.uk](mailto:itmatters@itsolve.co.uk)



## **Whither Vista Now?**

When Microsoft launched its all-new Vista operating system in January 2007, I advised you to be cautious of this completely unproven technology. Now, some eighteen months later, it is clear that there has been a marked reluctance on the part of consumers to move to Vista, and even more reluctance on the corporate side. At ITSolve, we still ship considerably more Windows XP machines than Vista. Fortunately, Microsoft have just extended the OEM life of Windows XP, meaning that you can continue to buy machines with XP, albeit for only a further nine months.

## **Reluctant to Upgrade?**

This reluctance to upgrade is nothing new. A friend remarked recently that the machines in his local high street bank were still running Windows 2000. And that is not uncommon. Many larger organisations will continue to run Windows 2000 for some while yet. Why? Many man-hours were invested in set-up and support for Windows 2000. To set-up a new structure for Vista will be extremely expensive.

The single most important question to ask is 'is there a significant benefit to upgrading?' No? Then we will stay as we are, thank you Mr Ballmer. The result is that, according to Forrester Research, in June 2008 just 8.8% of Enterprise PCs were running Vista. I know that will increase, but slowly.

## **Reasons to hold back**

There are other reasons for holding back:

Windows XP was released in 2001, so most of us have seven years of experience with the system. Indeed, a number among us have never known anything else. After seven years we all know how to use it, we know what it can do, as well as what it can't. Familiarity breeds productivity.

Vista is still far too demanding of the hardware. It is true that on a modern PC Vista runs well but on an older machine it will struggle. In any event a comparison of Vista and XP on the same platform will always come down on the side of XP.

What's more, Vista remains irritating to use. Constant prompts to 'Confirm' are annoying. And Driver compatibility issues persist. While many of these issues are rooted in the increased security provided by Vista, for which we should be grateful, the age-old conflict between usability and security does not help Vista.

Finally we have to come back to the question, is there a compelling reason to upgrade? If not, don't. Well, not until you have to.

*Charles Zealey is a consultant working with business professionals helping them to improve their organisation's productivity and effectiveness with the use of Information Technology. Typically a return on investment can be achieved with 6-12 months. To access help sheets go to [www.itsolve.co.uk/HelpSheets/](http://www.itsolve.co.uk/HelpSheets/). For a free half-hour consultation on business IT issues phone 01635 869863 or email [lisa@itsolve.co.uk](mailto:lisa@itsolve.co.uk).*

*This article is © Copyright ITSolve Ltd 2006-8. All rights reserved. You may copy or distribute this article in full as long as this copyright statement and full information about contacting the author is preserved. The author is Charles Zealey, ITSolve Ltd., [charles@itsolve.co.uk](mailto:charles@itsolve.co.uk). Telephone : 01635 869863.*

*To subscribe to our newsletter, IT in Focus, email [subscribe-it-in-focus@itsolve.co.uk](mailto:subscribe-it-in-focus@itsolve.co.uk). To 'unsubscribe' email [unsubscribe-it-in-focus@itsolve.co.uk](mailto:unsubscribe-it-in-focus@itsolve.co.uk) using the same email address as that from which you originally subscribed.*

*We keep our subscriber list in confidential. Whilst we aim to ensure that all out-going mail is scanned for viruses we recommend that you ensure that you are fully protected against all forms of malware attack. We only send our general bulletins to those we understand have given their express permission to receive them. ITSolve Ltd never release, sell or give a subscriber's e-mail address to any party outside of the organisation, except when referring business between individual subscribers. Our subscribers only receive email messages that contain requested information, new monthly articles or announcements of new services.*