

## **WINDOWS VISTA – IS IT NEW DAWN?**

Apparently the greatest event of 2007 has already occurred. On January 30th Microsoft Windows Vista™ went on sale for the first time, and a massive advertising campaign hit the media.

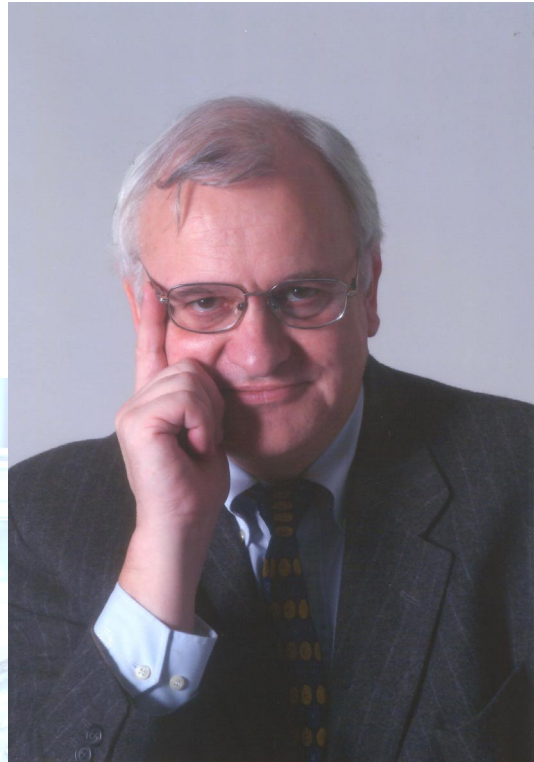
Was Windows Vista worth the wait? It's the latest Windows Operating system that began in the mid-eighties and evolved to Windows XP.

In many ways Windows Vista does no more than its predecessors, but Microsoft claim it will be easier to use, because of:

A better user interface, with improved graphics plus a more intuitive look and feel

Better integration of multi-media content – especially video and television.

Significantly improved security, including integrated parental controls, Windows Defender (Microsoft's own virus-guard) and better protection against viruses and spy ware.



## **LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP**

If you are considering getting Windows Vista, I urge caution. Apart from the £100 or more for the upgrade itself, there is the need to think about the time spent on the change, training, disruption, compatibility with pre-installed software, and the inevitable problems of an upgrade.

The other factor is the minimum hardware required. While it is true that most PCs sold today are capable of running Windows Vista, most PCs in use today won't be able to run all Windows Vista features.

So where does that leave us? If you have a PC that is doing the job you need it to do, then I say you shouldn't be tempted to 'upgrade' to Windows Vista. If you seriously need the new features that come with Windows Vista then consider a new computer, or wait until it's time to replace your existing PC.

## **ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS**

Those of us in businesses need to be especially careful. While you probably won't rush out to upgrade every PC immediately, at some point someone will need a new one and you'll be tempted by Windows Vista. But be careful. Before bringing even one Windows Vista PC into your organisation you need to be sure that it will perform in the way you want it to. Does it run existing applications properly? Will it work with those who are stuck with older versions of Windows?

## **PROCEED WITH CAUTION**

Now is not the time to act in haste. Now is the time for preparation and planning. Experience with every new operating system has shown that while the manufacturers would like you to believe that the upgrade process is painless, it rarely is.

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