



MICROSOFT VISTA SP1

Microsoft Corp. is hoping the release to manufacturing of Service Pack 1 (SP1) for Windows Vista will encourage customers to upgrade their existing machines to the operating system (OS), which up until now has mostly been adopted through new hardware purchases.

It's been just about a year since Vista was made generally available, and in the past year more than 100 million Vista licenses have been sold worldwide. When you get to this kind of level, organizations start to accelerate deployments and consumers accelerate purchases of new PCs and upgrades of existing PCs.



As announced in September, SP1 will include all updates previously delivered through Windows Update and auto update. Even if you have downloaded all the updates, it's still worth downloading and installing SP1 because the service pack provides additional upgrades that can only be done by making tweaks to the core OS.

For example, in the category of emerging standards, SP1 will provide support for new flash memory devices that require the exFAT file system. On the infrastructure optimization side, customers will be able to encrypt other hard drive partitions with Vista's BitLocker technology in addition to the partition they booted from, which was previously not possible. Certain performance aspects of Vista will also improve with SP1, such as the speed at which files are copied or unzipped, or the speed at which the computer comes out of sleep mode.

Although they really didn't need to wait for SP1, some customers have done so because that's always been their practice with other OS versions. After the release of previous service packs, Microsoft has "historically seen increases in adoption rates," and the vendor is hoping the situation will be no different with Vista.

Microsoft is also hoping SP1 will trigger an increase in upgrades to Vista on customers' existing systems. In the past, when a new OS was released, most people would install it on their existing machines, but since the price of PCs has dropped so much, many people simply went out and bought new PCs that happened to have Vista on them.

I do believe that with SP1, we are going to see an upsurge in in-place upgrades from XP to Vista. I think PC sales will continue to be strong, but I do expect an incremental bump (in Vista sales) as people upgrade their existing PCs...I also expect to see corporate adoption and deployment increase on new machines.



Over the past year, Microsoft has spent a considerable

HOW SAFE IS SOCIAL NETWORKING?

In light of a high-profile cyberbullying and suicide case on MySpace last year, many social network users--and the parents of teenage MySpacers, especially--are thinking twice about the wisdom of spending life online.

A midwestern mom Mary (not her real name) has a deal with her high-school-age daughter that her MySpace profile must be private, shielding her from all but her known, real-world friends. But when the 15-year-old created a fictional female MySpace character with her 14-year-old friend, who was still in middle school, they made the account public and soon began chatting with an older high-school boy. Then, the middle-schooler agreed to meet the boy in person, triggering a crisis in both girls' families.

"When you get to make up somebody, they're exciting, they're more adventurous than you really are," says Mary, who was unhappy with the fake account but even more shocked that it progressed to a face-to-face meeting.

facebook

Kate Casavecchia Crisp, director of a nonprofit organization, has weathered online dangers, too, but continues to participate actively at social networking sites.

She has employed more than a dozen social sites, including Facebook, LinkedIn, Ning, and Twitter, to promote her organization's education and advocacy goals, attracting the occasional loony along the way.

"I got stalked by a crazy in a group I led for awhile," she recalls, after kicking the woman out of a discussion group for repeatedly cursing at other members. The episode has made her wary of posting her photo in online profiles, so she often replaces it with a cartoony avatar. "These virtual types, some of them are scary," she says. "I don't want to run into them at the market."

Magazine publisher Waylon Lewis says his company used a MySpace page to promote parties and other events for its yoga-culture magazine, Elephant, until the page began attracting so much porn spam that he had to abandon the effort. But Lewis's story has a happy ending: His company fled from MySpace to Facebook, and he finds it a great place to publicize events and build community around the magazine. Lewis says his Facebook inbox is completely spam-free, but he wonders whether that, too, might pass if Facebook's ownership or policies change. "I didn't used to get triple-X spam on MySpace."



Glossary of Social Networking Terms

- **Add:** The act of gaining a new friend, and social networking's common currency, as in "Dude, thanks for the add."
- **Block:** To configure your social networking service to prevent a particular user from contacting you or viewing your profile.

TECHNICAL TIPS

Disable Balloon Tips in Windows Vista

This article explains how to disable Balloon Tips in Windows Vista.

1. Press Windows+R, enter gpedit.msc and hit enter. This opens the Group Policy Editor. Please note that the Group Policy Editor (gpedit.msc) is not available in Windows Vista Home and Vista Home Premium. I'm going to outline how to disable balloon tips on those editions at the end
2. Go to User Configuration, Administrative Templates, Start Menu and Taskbar.
3. Select Remove Balloon Tips, right-click it and choose properties from the context menu
4. Select Enable from the options and click ok
5. Close the Group Policy Editor
6. Reboot Windows Vista

gpedit.msc is not available in Windows Vista Home and Home Premium which means that you have to rely on the registry to disable those balloon tips .

1. Press Windows+R, type regedit and hit enter. This starts the registry editor
2. Navigate to HKEY_CURRENT_USER / SOFTWARE / Microsoft / Windows / CurrentVersion / Explorer / Advanced
3. Create a new Dword and name it EnableBalloonTips
4. The value should be automatically set to 0, if it is not change it to 0
5. Reboot Windows Vista

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SOCIAL...

- Check-in: In mobile social networking, an electronic message that alerts your group of friends that you have arrived at the local pub and are ready to party.
- Cyberbully: To attack, harass, or ridicule a fellow community member via posted text, video, or other electronic means.
- Defriend: The inverse of adding a friend, and the very epitome of coldness. Same as unfriend.
- Faceslam: To ignore a Facebook friend request from someone you don't know and/or wish would just go away.
- Facestalk: To scan, jealously, the Facebook profiles and photos of people you know, are going out with, or are going out with in your dreams.
- Friend: To request that another user add you as a friend--sometimes an awkward moment for the social networker.
- MySpace Suicide: The act of deleting one's MySpace account forever.
- Nudge: On Twitter, to send a message notifying someone you follow that they're not posting frequently enough.
- Poke: On Facebook, a feature that lets other users know that you're looking at their profile, and possibly stalking them.
- RL: Real life--the world of flesh, bone, and face-to-face meetings that existed before the Web browser.
- Slurping: The ability of most social networks to import your Web-based mail contacts to see if any are already on the service. Watch out for slurpers that spam every contact with membership invites.

Ning

LinkedIn

SP1...

amount of time working with hardware manufacturers and independent software vendors (ISVs) to resolve some compatibility issues. That's always a challenge when an operating system is first released. For example, Microsoft has been able to increase the number of devices and components supported by Vista from 20,000 when the OS first shipped, to a current 77,000. While the drivers for these additional devices have been available through Windows Update and the auto update feature, they will not be included in SP1. In addition, the number of Vista-logoed devices is now at 17,000. In comparison, within the same time frame only 12,000 logoed devices were available for XP.

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