

# Microsoft Vista (Updated)



**PULBOROUGH COMPUTER CLUB**

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# One Year On



- What's the take up rate?
- How does it compare with XP?
- XP's cutoff date is looming (June 2008)
- Service pack 1 recently released (impact)
  
- What's it been like for early adopters?
  
- People with no knowledge will still tell you that Vista is awful! We'll see about that.....

# Vista Revision



- **Interface**
  - Aero (**excellent**), Task Bar (**good**), Alt-Tab (**OK**), Flip 3D (Windows Key-Tab) (**just a toy, never used it!**)
- **Start Menu**
  - All Programs
  - Quick Search (**excellent, though I still forget to use it**)
- **Full Search**
  - Search Tools (**quite good, but Quick Search is so good you rarely need it**)
  - Advanced Search – Show Only etc
- **Sidebar**
  - **Just a toy, I always remove it, but many people love it!**

# Security Update



- **Windows Defender**
  - Anti-spyware – (Kaspersky is much better, tho' not free)
  - Startup Items manager – (autoruns is much better, and free)
- **User Accounts**
  - User Access Control – very good, you soon get used to it
- **Parental Controls**
  - Never used them
- **Backup & Restore Centre**
  - Replaced by Acronis True Image
- **Shadow Copy**
  - Never used it

# Vista Self-Help Update



- **Control Panel**
  - Excellent, much better than XP or earlier
- **Resource Overview**
  - Rarely used, but it's better than Task Manager!
- **Performance Monitor**
  - Never used
- **Problem Reports & Solutions**
  - Rarely needed after the initial build phase
- **Performance Information & Tools**
  - Reliability monitor is useful

# Ultimate Extras (usefulness measure)



- **Bitlocker Drive Encryption**
  - Never used it
- **Image Backup**
  - Acronis True Image is much better
- **Virtual PC**
  - Virtual PC can be made to work on Home Premium!
- **Dreamscene**
  - Pretty, but hardly essential
- **Hold'Em Poker**
  - Waste of time

# Vista – the Facts (from down the pub)



- **Everyone with Vista wishes they still had XP**
  - Well I certainly don't, and nor do 90% of users
- **There are no Vista drivers available for anything**
  - Well, other than the 54,000 drivers included in SP1
- **Application compatibility is rubbish**
  - Hmm, if you still use Windows 98 programs maybe
- **If you upgrade your PC from XP you will explode**
  - Actually that is true – please don't do it
- **DRM stops you playing DVDs**
  - Complete nonsense, tho' it does make for a good scary story
- **UAC (user access control) is a nightmare**
  - But it's better than Linux or MAC OS-X can manage

# Vista (Should I Buy It?)



## Questions

- Currently use XP Home on 2 year old PC
- Currently use XP on a year old laptop
- I've got a brand new machine running XP
- I'm buying a new PC soon
- Which version should I buy?

## Answers

- No, the machine won't run Vista acceptably
- No, laptops are only just catching up with Vista
- You should have chosen Vista!
- Choose Vista, the change is a good one
- Vista Home Premium is the best choice

# Vista Service Pack 1 – part one



- **Quality Improvements**

- 13,000 components supported at RTM, 54,000 with SP1
- NTFS external drives supported (but not recommended)
- Improved wireless and peer to peer networking
- Network shares and network browsing improved
- Large numbers of files copy much more quickly
- Media performance improvements
- Security has been improved but mostly in areas that you'll never come across!

# Vista Service Pack 1 – part two



- **Emerging Hardware & Standards**
  - Supports exFAT, a new standard for flash drives
  - Natively supports HD drives, inc. Blu-Ray and HD-DVD
  - Extends DirectX to direct 3D 10.1 (good for gamers)
  - Full support for 802.11n wireless networking

# Vista Service Pack 1 – part three



- **Infrastructure Optimisation**

- **Deployment**

- ✦ Updating process is improved for greater reliability & security
- ✦ Improved versions of Vista PE

- **Management**

- ✦ Network Diagnostics Tool improved
- ✦ Defrag tool is now customisable

- **Overall**

- This not the equivalent of XP SP2, it's a reliability and security update that you should install. Don't expect to see much difference!

# Vista – One year on



- Performance – overall it's better than XP but start-up is slightly slower, due to Superfetch and indexing (especially when new)
- Security – much better, with suitable care you could manage without anti-virus (though I wouldn't recommend it)
- Compatibility – excellent, unless you particularly want to use ancient hardware, or strange webcams. Also, the automatic driver installation via Windows Update is excellent

# The Ideal Vista PC



- **2 GB of memory (this is not optional)**
- **256MB graphics card – not integrated graphics**
  - Preferably PCI-E, Direct X 10 capable
- **Fast hard drive (this is where laptops are rubbish)**
  - This laptop has 5400rpm hard drive, try to use 7200rpm
- **Any dual-core processor (or quad, of course)**
  - You won't notice the difference between a Pentium Core 2 and a Core 2 Extreme (except the price)

# Keyboard Shortcuts



## Key Presses

- WinKey + D
- WinKey + E
- Winkey + M
- Winkey + R
- Ctrl + Winkey + Tab
- Ctrl + Shift + Esc
- Alt + Tab

## Action

- Show Desktop
- Open Explorer
- Minimise All
- Run Dialog
- 3D Flip (fixed)
- Task Manager
- Windows Flip

# Task Bar & Sidebar

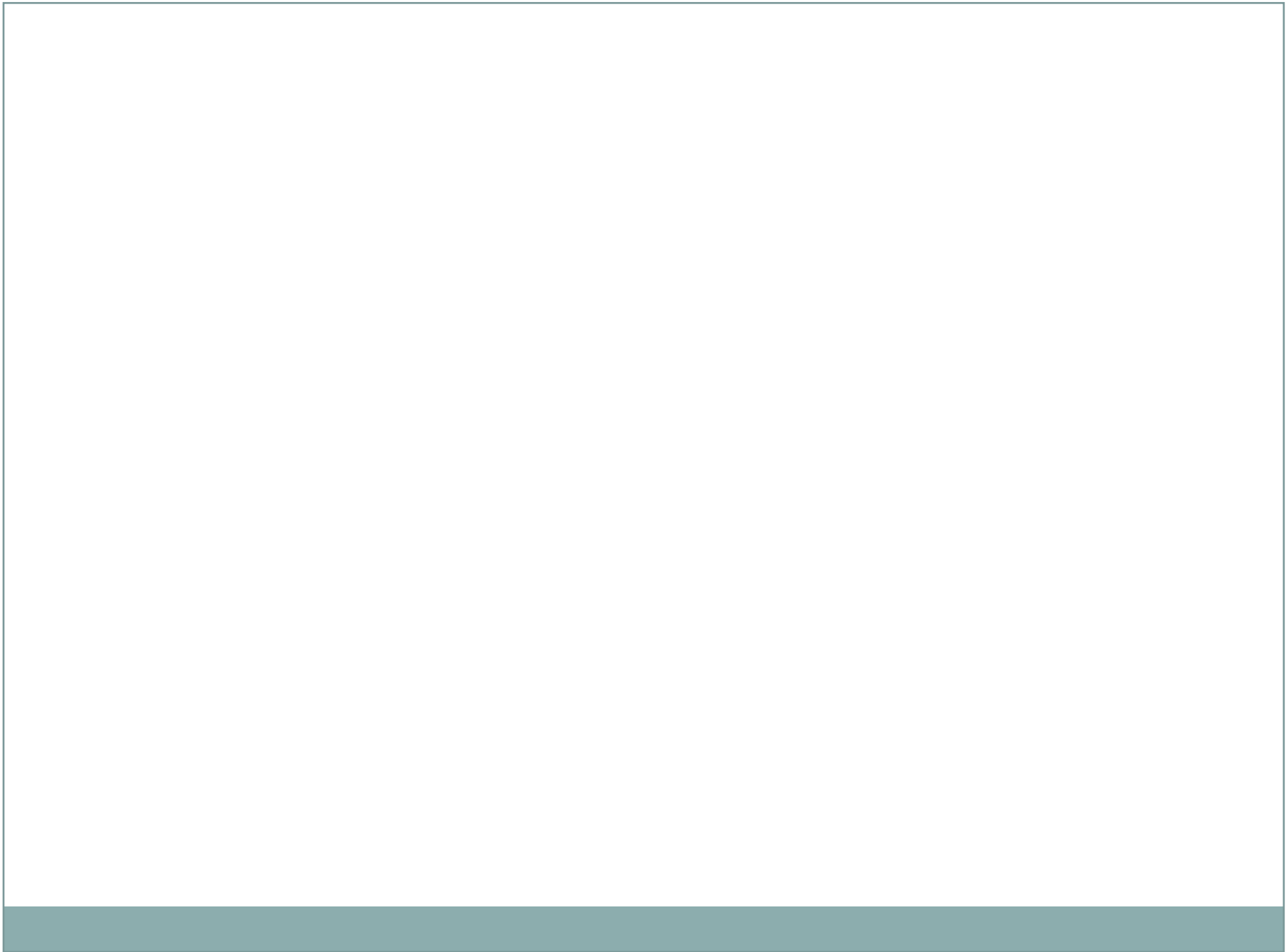


- Date & Time – set up to two additional times (ideal for Skype users) ; plus usable calendar
- Large number of Gadgets available at <http://vista.gallery.microsoft.com/vista/SideBar.aspx?mkt=en-gb>
- Try gadgets on desktop rather than sidebar

# Control Panel



- **AutoPlay**
- **Default Programs**
- **Folder Options**
- **Color Management (yes I can spell colour)**
- **Power Options**



# Media Centre



- **Excellent interface**
- **Looks great on a TV**
- **Can be worked with a remote with the right PC**
- **Works with Media Extenders**

