

Technology Update

Pulborough Computer Club

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New Technology

- Software
 - Microsoft Vista
 - Alternatives
- Hardware
 - New PC shapes and sizes
 - Latest technology
- Do You Need It?

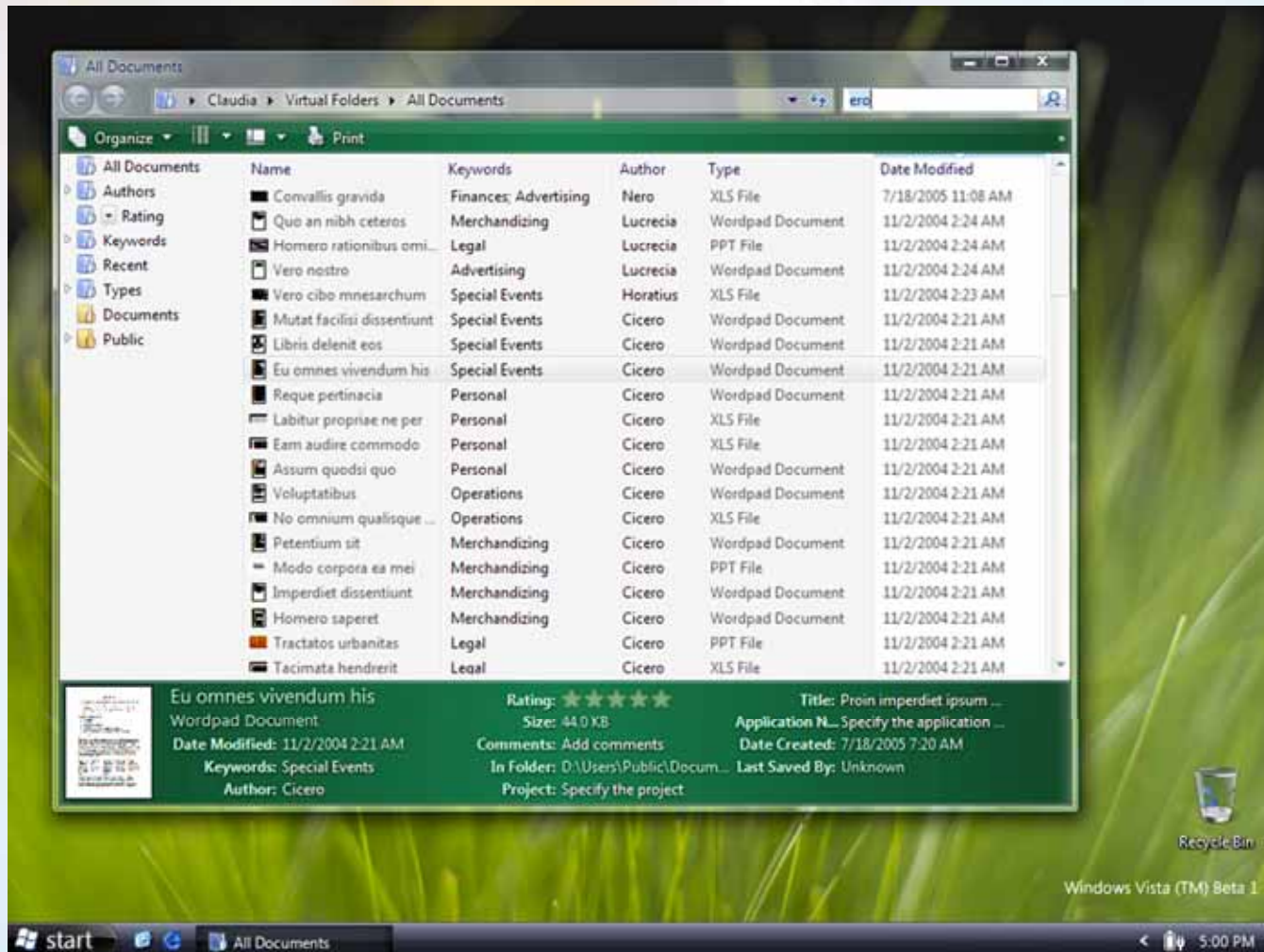
New Software

- Windows Vista
 - More secure
 - Better stability & system recovery
 - Quicker performance
 - New GUI, including better searching
 - New animations, appearance
 - Internet Explorer 7
 - New DRM rules built in

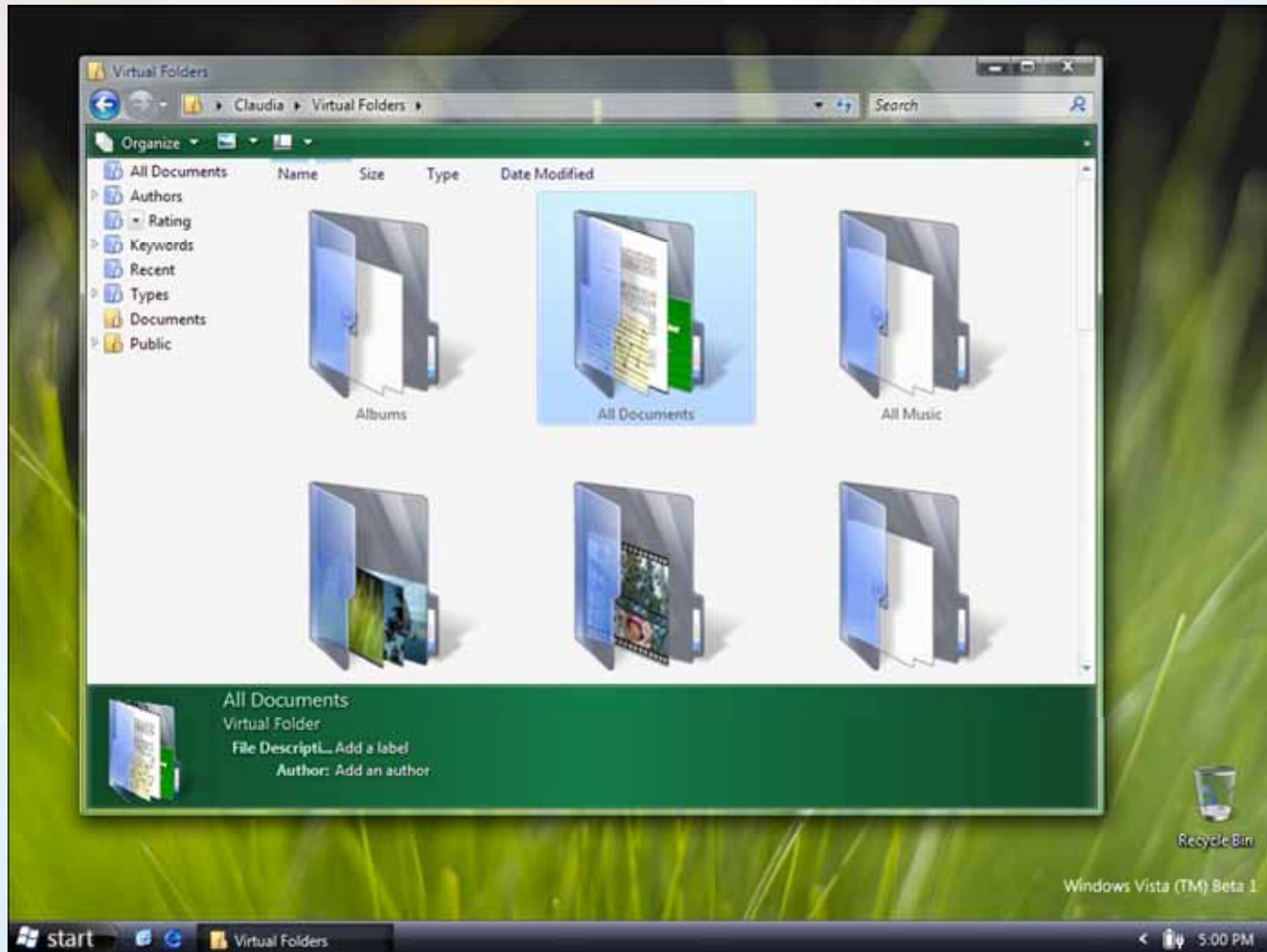
Windows Vista

- Hardware Requirements
 - 1GB RAM, or maybe more
 - Direct X 9.0 dedicated graphics card (this means no more on-board graphics)
 - Intel Pentium 4, or AMD Athlon (this means no Celeron, Duron, P3.....)
- 64 Bit & 32 Bit Versions
- Does your system meet these specifications?
 - Less than 5% of PCs I see regularly
 - The end of the super cheap PC?

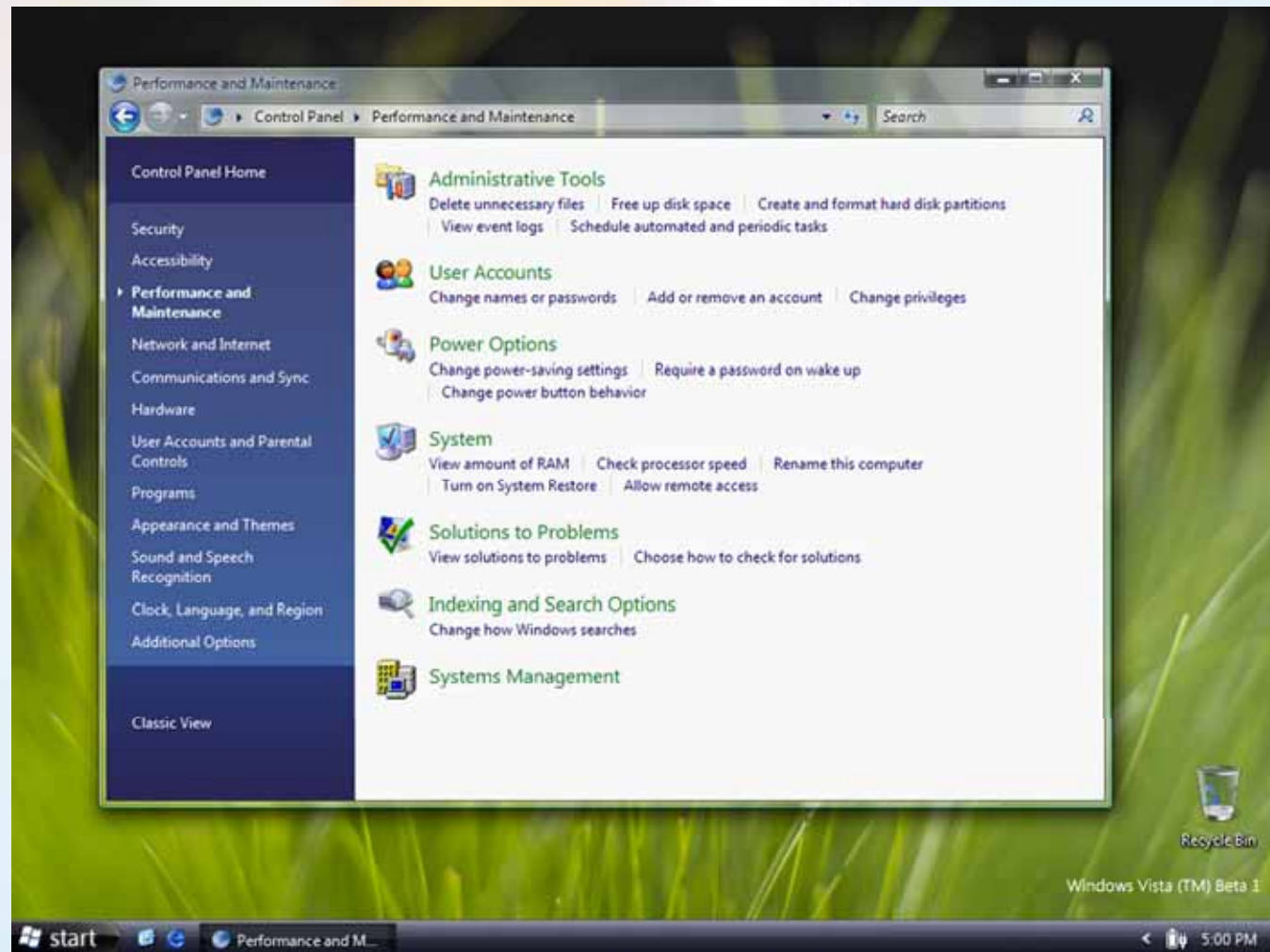
Windows Vista (1st look)



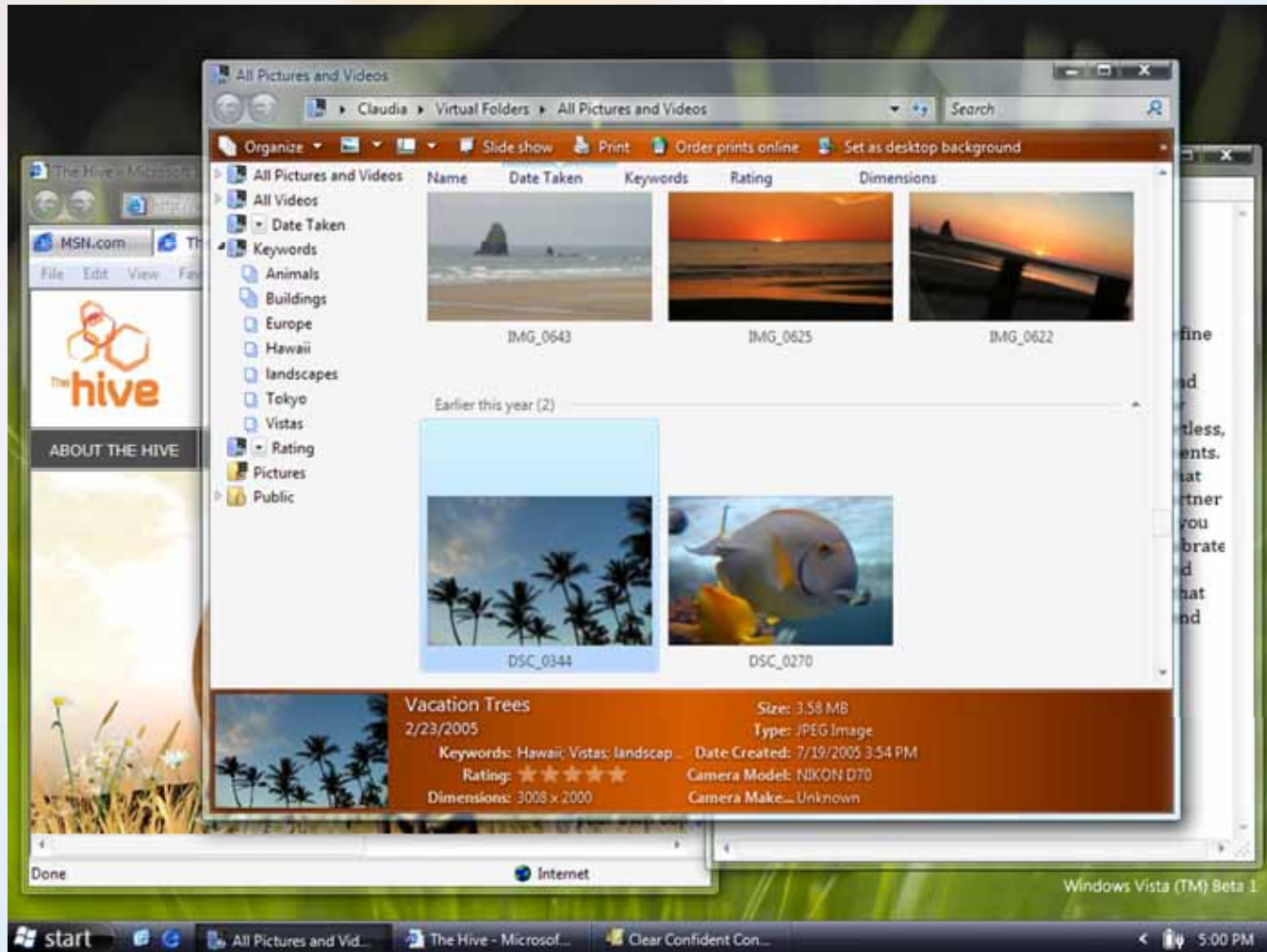
Virtual Folders



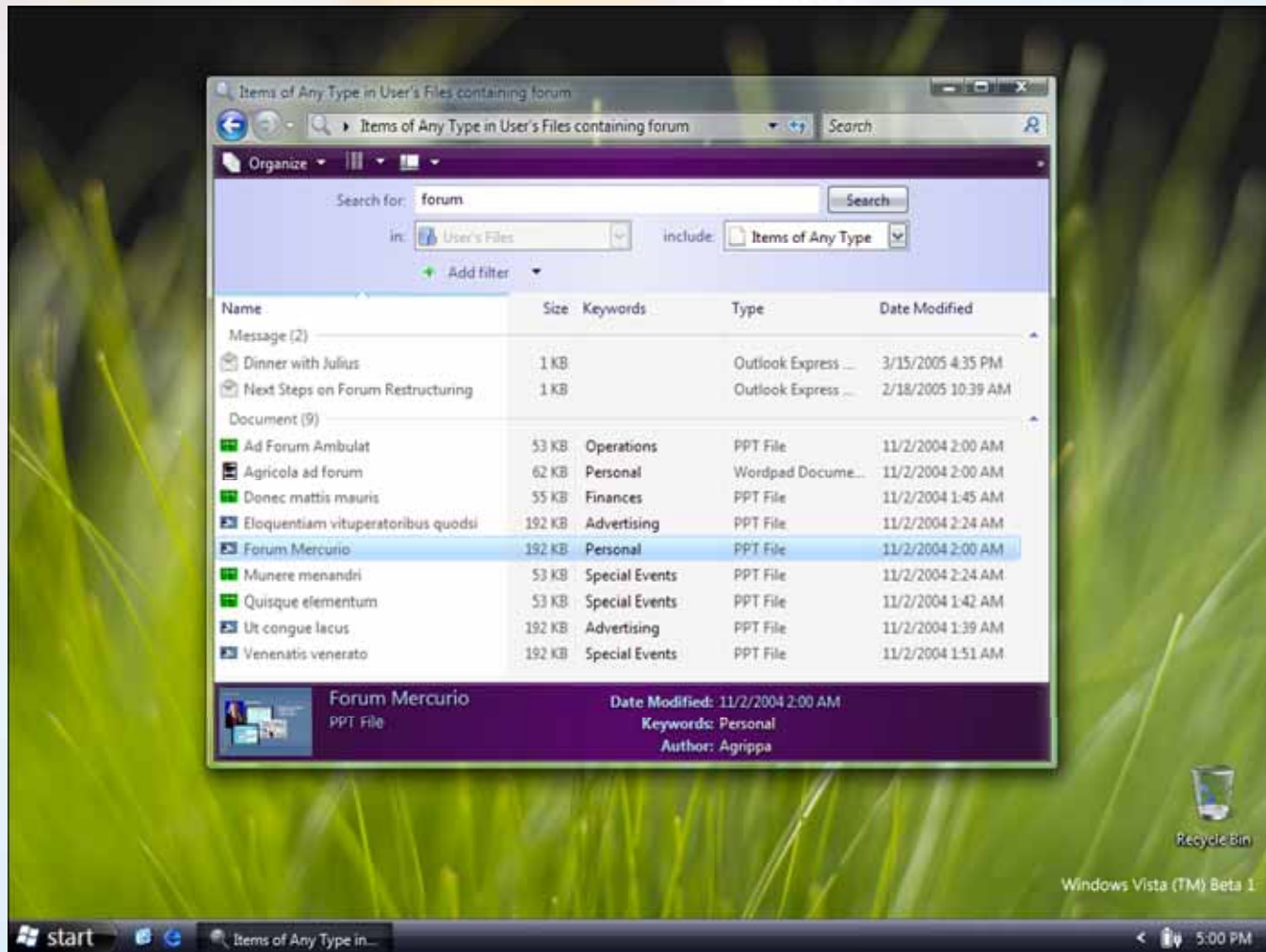
Performance & Maintenance



Picture Viewer



Desktop Search



Alternatives to Vista

- Linux demo earlier in the year – Fedora
- Ubuntu now into 3rd rollout phase
 - Gnome based (KDE version available)
 - Text (but easy) installer
 - Excellent hardware support
 - Equivalents to all current Windows packages
- Sun Solaris now available free for the more adventurous

Hardware



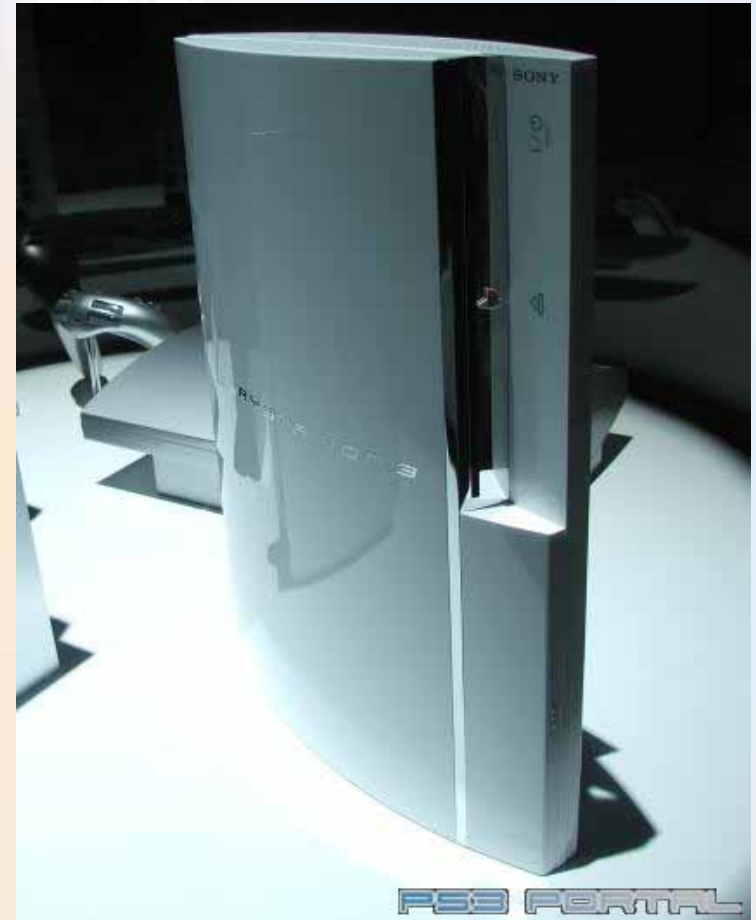
- Move from 'work' PC to 'play' PC
 - Windows Media Centre PCs
 - PCs for the living room

New PC Designs



- New PCs are built for a new environment
 - Smaller
 - Quieter
 - Aesthetically pleasing
 - No beige boxes

Competition from consoles



Two of Everything

- Dual core processors
 - Intel Pentium dual core – Pentium D
 - AMD Athlon 64 dual core – Athlon 64 X2
- Dual Graphics cards
 - Nvidia SLI or ATi Crossfire
- Dual Memory
 - DDR2 RAM
- Twin screens

Dual Core in the Real World

- Benefits
 - Multi-tasking without slow down
 - Multi-threaded applications much faster
- Reality
 - How many tasks do you run simultaneously?
 - Hardly any applications are designed for multi-threading
 - No increase in speed for the average user
 - Great if you're a 3D graphics designer

Multi-Core Tomorrow

- Multi-tasking will become the norm
 - Playing a 3D game, running anti-spyware programs, checking for emails and keeping an eye on RSS news feeds all at once
 - New applications will be designed for multi-threaded speed. Requires a mindset change by programmers

Move away from Ghz

- Performance per watt to replace Ghz?
 - End of the drive to faster processor speeds?
 - Move from single to dual to multi core
- Does anyone understand processor speeds?
 - Which is faster Intel 3.6GHz, or AMD 2.4Ghz?
 - What about architectures, cache size, pipeline length?

Home Networking

- More prevalent – move from early adopter to being commodity item
- Wireless networking will grow hugely
- Network speeds will increase - MIMO
- Video streaming a possibility
 - Music streaming already possible
- More reliable hardware - hopefully

Mobile Computing

- Laptop shrinkage
- Dual core, low wattage chips
- Pentium M growth
- PDA, notebook, laptop, tablet
- Built in wireless (Centrino plus)
- GPS growth

The Immediate Future

- If you want Vista, buy a new PC
- If you want to watch TV on your PC, buy a Media Centre PC and a High Definition TV
- If you want to play games, buy a new console, or a very fast PC
- If you want music and video in every room buy a fast wireless router

Or

- Stick with XP, it works fine
- Watch television on your TV set and record with your VCR or DVD recorder
- Play games that are 2 years old, they're still good
- Stick with the beige box in the spare room, it's cheap and does just what you need it to do!

Any Questions? Points?