

# An in depth look at Windows 7

By Pat Struthers  
Need to know for Windows 7...

Hardware considerations: New hard drive, new video, 2 Ghz processor, 2GB of RAM. If you already have a screen/keyboard/mouse, this (+W7) could be built for as little as \$400, as all of you are probably aware. If the computer is less than five years old, it can probably be upgraded to this level, and will run W7 fine.

Printers and other hardware - this began with Vista, but many manufacturers, because of Microsoft's new, more rigid, software guidelines, didn't bother to write new software for their products. This is particularly true for 64-bit versions of XP/Vista/W7. If it worked in XP, that was good enough; cynically, they figure you will soon be buying a new (printer, etc.) anyway.

Any Vista computer will run W7 faster and better. Windows 7 is just a re-written version of Vista with some extra features. If your computer has less than 1.5GB of RAM, I recommend an upgrade to at least 2GB, but I would anyway even if you kept Vista on the computer. Adding 1GB of RAM shouldn't cost more than \$30-\$50.

Software considerations: If you are using an old DOS/Windows 95/98 program, don't expect it to work. It might with W7 Pro or Ultimate, but W7 works better and faster because Microsoft threw away a vast amount of backwards-compatibility junk. As stated above, Microsoft's new software guidelines are very strict, and Vista and W7 enforce those guidelines. How well an old program works will depend on how well the manufacturer complied with Microsoft's recommendations in the past. Many old programs have or will fall by the wayside.

32-bit or 64-bit? All 32-bit flavors of Windows limit your RAM to ~3.5GB. Most people don't need this much but who knows what the future might require.

64-bit drivers and software have to meet much more stringent standards, and do not inherit the types of backward-compatibility problems the 32-bit versions might have.

Windows 7 benefited from the rocky start 64-bit XP and Vista had. 99% of the hardware that works in W7 at all will work with the 64-bit version. The 64-bit flavor costs no more than 32-bit. In fact, a purchased license works for both versions, will be

slightly faster, and has a better upgrade path. Also, most viruses are targeted very specifically at 32-bit XP and will not work right on 64-bit Windows. This may change in the future, as W64 becomes a bigger target. Hopefully, Microsoft has learned something from the security problems with XP. They are ahead of the game with 64-bit W7, and if they stay on the ball they might be able to keep ahead.

## What is new in Windows 7?

- Better organization for users.
- Libraries - easier to organize documents, even across networks
- Windows Explorer is useful again
- Taskbar and tray - easier to do more than one thing at once
- Better searching - can search for web pages, documents, and applications
- Pretty! - Nicer media stuff. Why are 'pretty' and 'nice' important? I have actually gone back to using a lot of Windows apps that I learned to despise in XP. Now they actually work, they are nice to look at. And now Mac users can't say their OS is better looking.
- Voice recognition - clunky but works
- Better 'standards' support.

I use many, many, programs that are Open Source or ported over from Linux. All of them work better in W7 than they did in W2K or XP.

-Less 'optional' software. Microsoft has 'unbundled' a lot of the applications that used to come with Windows, making them a free download instead. These include the Live Essentials and Security Essentials packages.

-Better and more flexible maintenance tools.

-More flexible and secure networking

-More flexible power management

-Automatic disk defragmentation

-Much improved hardware detection and driver installation

-Automatic backup (Professional)

-File and folder encryption (Professional)

-BitLocker drive encryption (Ultimate)

-More stable, better security, Harder to break, easier to fix.

**Recommendations:**

Just say "No" to Vista.

If you are going to by a new PC of any kind, and you don't have old hardware or software you need to work, there is no

question. Buy a Windows 7 PC, period. The Vista fiasco paved the way for better hardware, as well as training the software manufacturers to build better software. W7 benefits from all of that. You can buy the cheapest possible new computer and it will run W7 very nicely.

If you have a Vista PC that just isn't quite stable, or else you happen to have an extra \$100 or so to spend on it, you should upgrade. All the hardware will work, and you will have a faster and more stable computer when you are done.

## Which version for what?

Home: If you have basic needs, do not need to be able to run badly written Windows 95/98/XP programs, don't need to connect to a Domain.

Professional: Automated backup and restore, file and folder encryption, XP emulation mode. \$140-\$200.

Ultimate: Full drive encryption, multi-lingual capabilities. \$180-\$300.

Upgrades (don't recommend doing this...):

XP Home, Vista Home - W7 Home, \$60-\$75; XP Pro, Vista Biz - W7 Pro, \$75-\$105; Vista Ultimate -

W7 Ultimate, \$120-\$200.

Optional software (Live Essentials and Security Essentials); Security Essentials - excellent anti-spyware and system policing; Live Mail - replacement for Outlook Express; Live Messenger - the latest version of Messenger; Movie Maker - a good starting video editor and DVD burning tool; Family Safety - a free monitoring/content filtering; Photo Gallery - a picture and album organizer.

## How to buy?

Best way is always to buy the OEM version, use the Microsoft Easy Transfer program (and also do a good backup to something else), and do a fresh install. 'Upgrades' always end up inheriting problems from the previous setup.

OEM can be purchased mail order. 'OEM' means that Microsoft will not take support calls from you. That is your (the 'manufacturer's') problem.

Retail versions are much more expensive; the best way to get them is to buy them directly from Microsoft's online store. You can have them send you the disk, or just purchase a product key and download an install image and burn a DVD.

## Parents for Parents Committee to host St. Patrick's breakfast

The Parents for Parents Committee will be hosting a St. Patrick's breakfast on Saturday, March 13, from 7-10 a.m. at the Senior Center on Main Street.

The price is \$6 for ages 13 and over and \$3

for ages 12 and under. This fundraising event will help sponsor a speaker that will be coming this spring.

The Parents for Parents Committee was formed through the HES PTC from a group of par-

ents that were struggling with parenting decisions. The goal is to provide parents with opportunities to learn ways to parent more effectively. The committee's hope is that parents never feel that they are alone with these struggles and to provide empowerment to each other.

Past projects have included: the Smart Hearts Fair and Career Fair, speakers such as Mac Bledsoe and Michael Sedler, and Parenting with Dignity

DVD classes. The committee will continue to bring more of these opportunities to the area in the hopes to bring families and community closer.

For more information about the committee or upcoming projects, contact any of the following members: Jessica Lehman, Molly Rill, Nicole Mahoney, Lisanne Currin, Brandi Sweeney, Kay Fowler, Carri Grieb, Matt or Kami Combe, Sherry Matteson or Andrea Fletcher.

## HES celebrates Dr. Seuss' birthday



Heppner Elementary School celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and National Read Across America Day on March 2. The K-6 grade students and many parents were entertained with two songs from Mrs. Stone's choir class, a poem recited by Mrs. Allen's class, and a reading of "Horton Hatches an Egg" by Mrs. Allen. Then the students read Dr. Seuss books for a half hour in small groups. Picture are: Back Row (L-R) - Mrs. Allen, Patrick Collins, and Naleah Stone; Front Row (L-R) - ZaBrena Masterson and Logan Waddell. -Contributed Photo

## KUMA Coffee Hour keeping the tradition alive

Come and join the fun and tradition of Heppner's Wee Bit O' Ireland entertainment on Saturday morning, March 13, at 10 a.m., upstairs at the Elks Club in downtown Heppner.

The broadcast is live on the KUMA Radio Show and is the longest running tradition of the celebration. Jim Farley started the St. Patrick's Celebration by having KUMA broadcast live from his Ford Showroom 28 years ago. The broadcasters have changed over the years, however, there is still the music, the jokes, and the

family histories all in tact.

The Irish Singers, featuring John Doherty and Mike Duffy give us traditional Irish songs to clap along with, and sometimes to join in on the chorus singing.

A featured event of the morning is the Brogue Contest. People from the audience are encouraged to come up and tell their favorite (clean) Irish story and try a brogue at the same time. The winner gets \$50 in gold coins, with second place getting \$30 and third place receiving \$20 in gold coins.

Come and join the tradition on Saturday morning.

## Census office opens in Heppner



The US census has opened an office in Heppner at the St. Patrick's Senior Center. The office will be staffed by John Renfro and will be open 1-4 p.m. every day except Thursday and Sunday to answer the public's questions about the upcoming census. "We will help people fill out census forms that will be delivered by hand to each house in the next week," Renfro said. The office will open through April 15, 2010 he said. -Photo by Autumn Morgan

## M.C. Creative Arts and Crafts to hold annual St. Pat's sale

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts will hold their annual St. Pat's sale at Les Schwab store front from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Among those selling will be: Mary Ella Johnson with crochet cotton rugs; Dennis Wall and his wood items and hand-tied flies; Beverly McCloud

with wool rugs, hot pads, dish cloths and coasters; Robert Reed with bird houses, small folding tables and miscellaneous wood items; Mona Shade with colorful rugs; and Molly Day with paintings and painted feathers.

Raquel Herra will be selling tamales. Also, the paintings of Sherrill Parrot will be on display.

## St. Patrick's Weekend!

**Espresso Specials-**

- Kiwi Italian Soda \$2 for 24 oz
- Chocolate chip Mint Frappe \$3 for 16 oz
- Irish Creme Latte \$2.75
- Peppermint patty Mocha \$3.75

See all the "greens" Shamrock Plants

**St Patrick's Schedule**

Friday, March 12 7am-7pm

Saturday, March 13 8am- 6pm

Sunday, March 14 8am- 3pm

**Large Selection of St. Patrick's Day Items**

• Party • Dress up • Cards • Decorations •

**New Sweat Shirts & Long Sleeve T-shirts for St. Patrick's Day**

**Murray's Drug** INC.

**New Hours- Opening 7:30 am!** Monday-Friday 7:30am-6pm

Rx 9am-6pm Closed 1-2 lunch Saturday 9 am-6pm

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