

# Vista

**Tuesday, May 22, 2007 - Update**

I will make a small update regarding my experiences since my initial newsletter about the new Vista Operating System.

## **Recommendation:**

**1. Do not upgrade to Vista.** I had a terrible experience with a new HP laptop that I purchased in June of last year that was certified to upgrade to Vista. It didn't work and I spent hours with customer support and finally ended up with a new laptop that now runs Vista correctly.

**2. Do not trust the Microsoft Compatibility Wizard.** It said that everything would run under Vista on the laptop. It didn't. However, in fairness to Microsoft, I may have had a lemon laptop.

**3. Continue to use XP unless you purchase a new computer.** Retain your old XP system and gradually move everything to your new Vista system. You will then still be able to use the hardware and software that does not work with Vista on your old XP system. Use your home network to move files to your Vista computer.

**4. Carefully read software and hardware reviews to make sure the hardware or software will work with Vista.** The reviews on Amazon.com and other sites will provide information and the experiences of others that you need to know BEFORE you purchase. Make sure the hardware or software indicates that it will work with Vista even if the product is new - that is no guarantee. See my newsletter about the new HP scanner I purchased that does not work with Vista.

**5. Get support from Microsoft.** They were very helpful to me and I'd give them an A++ for their exhaustive support when my laptop was not working.

I have gradually become less impressed with Vista as I have used it now for a few months. It has some nice features but nothing that would cause me to go out and buy it unless it came on a new computer.

**The New Vista Operating System – a few of my initial observations. Jan 26, 2007**

In a week Microsoft is supposed to release its long awaited new operating system – Vista. I'm sure you are all mildly interested and have some well earned reservations about upgrading or getting the new operating system.

Hopefully I can help in this area since I consider myself to be "one of the folks" just like you so you can follow my exploits and I'll probably create some more of "Marlo's Mine Fields" as and I walk, crawl or whine as I traverse this interesting new ground. Hopefully I won't fall off any new cliffs or discover any tempting quicksand saunas!

A few daze (days) ago I downloaded the Vista compatibility test and held my breath to see if all three of my computers / software and hardware would run with Vista.

Here's the link if you want to try it:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getready/upgradeadvisor/default.aspx>

Here's another link that looks good but I haven't tried this one.

<http://www.pcpitstop.com/vistaready/versions.asp>

Miracles of miracles – YES – All three computers passed easily!

The only truly funny question was with the compatibility of my recently purchased Microsoft mouse and keyboard – that's another newsletter (the magnifier on the mouse is WONDERFUL – more later).

I took the advice of a good friend and installed the evaluation (Beta) copy of Vista on my Laptop as a dual boot system so that if I had major problems I could still use my XP system like nothing ever happened. It's also a more accurate way for me to evaluate the true differences in performance using the same new HP laptop. This also makes the test more valid and reliable.

I would characterize my personality as a Type "A" with a thick coating of positive attitude over a core of extreme skepticism. Maybe I'm more like Neapolitan ice cream or better yet - Rocky Road. I have to say this before I comment about Vista so you will understand that my positive results are not easily arrived at.

## So what is my first response to Vista?

WOW and more WOW!

The first thing I tried was our new 4.0 version of Heritage Collector (to be released first of next week – yes I know I said that last week)

This is one fast operating system!

I can't believe how much faster our software runs in Vista!

Double click on a thumbnail in our Pro interface and in less than a second it's up and full screen.

Searching is lightning fast.

We only have one minor little glitch to resolve about displaying video clips so far in my tests so I'm very optimistic that Vista will work great with our new release..

### Other really nice things:

Display settings. If you have a projector, big screen TV or other accessory, Vista finds the right settings and you just click the right option. In XP I had to set up a special setting for my projector / TV and it wasn't easy to find and figure it out in the Nvidia display options. That frustration is gone in Vista.

Home Network Setup was a breeze since it found all the computers and did it automatically.

Internet setup. There was none. It found our Comcast broadband and I did nothing to make any changes – Wow – that's another first with a new computer.

Very nice help system. It offers some animation right on the display with arrows that point to the buttons to click as I was tutored in finding the new location of the "Add / Remove" option in the Control Panel. I was frustrated because I couldn't find it originally but the Help system made it easier and made me feel better about not having to read a whole bunch of documentation to get the needed instructions quickly.

This is a dumb one but I don't claim to be an Einstein. I really like the analog clock that you can have on the desktop (Old clock face with actual hands). You can even have two

clocks on your desktop if you want to know what time it is in Sydney, Australia. I don't like to try and calculate the time when I want to use Skype to speak with my good friend "Down Under." (The Aussie slang is hard enough).

My old HP 5M still works and was easy to set up over the home network.

Windows Movie Maker now will burn DVDs. Nice! It also has many new effects, fades and dissolves. I have to play with it more when I have time and figure out how we can use it with out software to create some high quality DVD movies etc.

### Not so nice things:

So far there are only a few and you know I don't work for Microsoft by me pointing them out.

The list will probably grow as I do more and install more software and hardware.

Of course I'll share so you can learn from my PAIN! (Just kidding).

Maybe we should suggest a new movie – Earnest gets a computer and I'll play the part of Earnest. There will be no script; just filming me each day should all give you enough laughs. We could advertise it as a humorous tragedy.

Google Earth runs really sloooooow each time it starts. You think it has bombed before it finally loads up and runs. I don't think it's a Vista problem – more of a software problem for Google to resolve. .

Vista takes a lot of HD space to install.

My Epson 2400 install disks didn't work but I found an Epson site in Europe that had just released install downloads for Vista two days ago and it installed fine and works with a few new features in the scanner software – bonus! (I'll share later if I get requests).

Some things have changed like the "Add / Remove" programs in the Control Panel but the automated help system made it easier to relocate.

A few other miscellaneous changes to the way things work.

It's not free! I think we all knew that was coming and I'm not sure what flavor (version) I should get or will be able to afford. My birthday comes 6 month earlier than Christmas so maybe I'll start making noises for an early birthday present from the wife and grown up kids.

I will keep you up to date as I discover more.

You will also get a peak at the Vista operating system if you attend any of my classes or workshops.

Later I will publish this to Marlo's Bog – no time today – more Vista testing is required before our pending release.

### **Vista Compatibility – Update (Jan. 29, 2007)**

After more detailed testing, I'm sorry to report that our most current 4.0 version of Heritage Collector (Upgrade to ProMedia Manager Suite) is NOT compatible with the new Vista Operating System. Many features in our software work perfectly with Vista but not ALL. Unfortunately it will take some time for programming and beta testing before we will be able to make a Vista release.

I really like many of the new items that Microsoft has built into the new operating system and will be eager to take advantage of them in the near future.

### **Here's what I'd recommend.**

**New Computer Purchase.** Stick with the XP operating system but ask for a coupon allowing you to upgrade to Vista later. This will also save you some money.

**XP Computer Backup.** If you are determined to get Vista or do not have the choice of getting an upgrade coupon, keep an XP computer system as a backup. You will then be able to test installing your software and hardware on the new Vista computer. You will still be able to use the older hardware and software that does not currently work with Vista on your XP computer.

**Home Network.** Use a home network to share files between your XP and Vista computers.

**Dual Boot System.** This is more complicated and takes more space off your hard drives since you will have two separate operating systems on the same computer.

**Use Caution.** Carefully read the hardware and software requirements when purchasing. You should also check the company's support web site to see if they will be offering Vista updates / upgrades in the future. I was surprised to discover that even some of the big companies were not ready for the Vista release with compatible software.

One final note of caution. Some companies will use large price reductions to get rid of their old inventory of hardware or software that will not work with Vista so don't be tempted to fall into this Mine Field unless you want to use it on your XP computer – then it might be a good deal.