



Windows 7

Frank's comments

Background

Windows Vista was an unfinished project when it was released and corporates and government alike soon rejected it as such and demanded extended support for XP until it was 'fixed'.

Windows 7 is simply Vista 'fixed,' it is not a new operating system. It has better networking, better security and some nice 'Apple-like' features and lots of Vista bugs fixed but that is essentially it.

However, the non acceptance of Vista has caused a worldwide technological backlog because not upgrading to Vista also meant not upgrading a whole host of other software and operating systems and databases and hardware (e.g., taking full advantage of 64 bit processors); corporates and government simply stayed on old and proven versions of software.

Of course the Global Financial Crisis also contributed with intense pressure to reduce IT spending. Vista plus the GFC has resulted in most organizations around the world running on 'old' software and most are at least 3 to 5 years behind the normal IT upgrade cycle.

Windows 7 may well be the catalyst (I think it will be) for organizations all over the world now getting back on to the IT upgrade treadmill.

Why should corporates move to Windows 7?

1. Corporates and government run their businesses using application software and applications have dependencies. Software vendors don't design and write new and improved applications based on old operating system and database software (e.g., Windows XP, SQL Server 2000, etc) they design their applications on the latest technology and do their best to take advantage of the latest technology.
2. So, if you want to benefit from the most efficient, smartest, fastest and most flexible applications you need to upgrade your IT environment to the latest operating system and database software.
3. If Vista is now indeed 'fixed' with Windows 7 then corporates and government can begin this upgrade and move to the latest versions of application software co-incident with moving to Windows 7.

Why shouldn't/won't corporates move to Windows 7?

1. As stated above Windows 7 is just Vista fixed BUT, it is also different to Vista and very different to XP.
2. Many, many old applications simply will not work correctly with Windows 7.
3. Some hardware will not work correctly with Windows 7 (though it shouldn't be as big a problem as it was with the first Vista release).
4. Users will need to be retrained.

5. You can't upgrade from XP to Windows 7, you can only upgrade from Vista (the last service pack). Large corporate and government can probably get around this with corporate licensing for applications (not desktop licensing) and by rolling out a new SOE. However, small to medium business had a huge task ahead of them. The only choice is to first upgrade every XP workstation/notebook to Vista and then upgrade to Windows 7 or do a new install of Windows 7 replacing XP and 'losing' all the applications you had installed. Then try contacting all the vendors you bought applications from and asking for new licences – good luck! Microsoft has still not given us a way to easily transfer applications from PC to PC (damn the archaic Windows Registry).

Will everyone eventually be forced to upgrade to Windows 7?

Yes because of application software compatibility problems and the need to upgrade to more current software for a host of other reasons. The longer you wait the more problems you will have with new application software. Plus, Microsoft will ensure that none of its suppliers ships anything other than Windows 7 equipped workstations and notebooks so you will soon run out of choices as your old equipment dies and you need equipment for new staff and new offices.

In my opinion, a worldwide move to upgrade to Windows 7 is about as certain as the worldwide acceptance of the next fancy iPhone from Apple. I think there will be a slow start (apart from the home market) because the GFC is still with us and IT budgets are about as tight as they have ever been. I think the tide will begin to turn mid 2010.

Will Knowledgeone Corporation be upgrading to Windows 7?

Yes because we need to both test and work under the latest software and because I actually like Windows 7; it is a big improvement over Vista and XP. We have already begun upgrading all of our workstations and notebooks to Windows 7 and yes, we are 'suffering' pain upgrading our XP workstations and notebooks just as all SMEs will suffer.

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