

Notes from Windows 7 Demo on 9/24/09 at PC Plus Technologies, Auburn, MA:

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Technical Information:

- Versions:
 - Ultimate – all features – BitLocker, Applocker, Direct Access
 - Professional – Home Network
 - Premium – Media Center
 - Small Machine – netbooks
 - Starter – limited features
- Download additional features from www.Live.com as needed
- Internet Explorer 8 included
- Will run well with 1GB of RAM
- Same memory used regardless of the number of windows open (big change from Vista)
- 13% better battery life
- Graphics requirement for Windows 7 is the current industry standard
- Boot up and Shut down are quicker with Windows 7 than with Vista (30-60 seconds depending upon what is in your start up)
- Downgrade to XP Professional is allowed from the Professional or Ultimate version for first 18 months
- XP will be out of stock in October except for the downgrade option in Windows 7

Desktop:

- Windows Flip – use Alt + Tab to scroll through open windows
- Pin to taskbar – option for icons of programs you use frequently so they always appear in the same space (create your own quick launch toolbar)
- Hovering over the taskbar icons will produce a full screen preview of open documents
- Action Center – one stop for all troubleshooting and maintenance – windows, anti-virus, etc.; the flag in the system tray will change colors as alerts are gathered
- Show Desktop is to the right of the clock so it should be almost always visible
- Windows Snap – click and drag will automatically size windows as you bump into the sides of the monitor; shaking a window will automatically minimize all other open windows (Tiling of windows from the taskbar is still an option although the names have changed – stack = horizontal; side by side = vertical)

New Features:

- BitLocker To Go – encrypts your flash drive or other removable media by making a password required for access; can eliminate the password if flash drive is used on same machine where created; SAVE your recovery key for this feature in case you forget your password!
- Branch Cache – will help in a large organization with remote offices – files from corporate server will be cached locally

- Device Aware Printing - Professional & Ultimate versions; when you connect to a network setup on your machine, it will automatically reset default printer, etc.
- Device Manager – as available, you can directly connect to the manufacturer’s home page for driver updates, etc.
- Home Group – recognizes Windows 7 machines on the network for resource sharing – photos, music, video, documents, printer
- Jump List – right click the icon for an open program to see the MRU (most recently used) file list for that application right from the taskbar
- Play To option to send from your computer to other video or audio system (TV, Zune, etc.)
- Problem Step Recorder (PSR) – records keystrokes and reports software versions; creates a zip file at the end of the recording that can be edited to add your own notes before emailing to a tech for assistance; file is in html; also handy as a training tool
- Trouble Shooter – will try to fix / update drivers, etc. after making a restore point
- User Access Control – more options of how/when to suppress the messages; can now be done at the profile/user level or different controls based on skills or age (These are those annoying ‘are you sure?’ messages that Vista presents when you start a program, etc.)
- XP Mode – not a replacement for Windows XP; use this if you have a program that is not Windows 7 compatible or that you don’t want to upgrade for Windows 7; this has special hardware (additional 1GB RAM and 15GB Hard Drive space; processor capable of hardware virtualization – enabled in BIOS) and anti-virus requirements; is downloaded if needed; only runs one application at a time; program must be installed while in XP Mode; looks a lot like Remote Desktop