

Windows 7 – WTF!?!?

Windows 7, Microsoft's latest operating system and the last in the Windows series, has been out for over a year now; and WTF – **What the Fuss?** You likely have heard a lot of hype about 7 lately; but is it as great as you're hearing?

To begin with, let me say this: It's awfully similar to Windows Vista and it's fantastic! I suppose Microsoft should have waited and not rushed Vista out, taking the time to work out the bugs that make it the most hated operating systems of all time. Windows 7 has worked out the bugs and added new features to provide a computing experience that is both user-friendly and intuitive. This may sound like words from the mouth of a Mac user, but Windows 7's best feature is its search tool, long Mac's advantage over Microsoft in user-friendliness. Anything you are looking for on your computer from a specific file to changing the screen brightness is easily accessed through the start menu. Just start typing the first few letters of what you need and Windows brings the options right up and easily guides you in the process.

7 also has a much improved update process, less intrusive and less annoying security features and a vastly improved system for installing hardware/drivers. Windows Peek and Windows Snap are 2 of the new enhanced video features seen in much of Microsoft's advertising. While they are cool, I wouldn't have missed them had they not been included.

Should you upgrade? Maybe. Does your current PC do everything you need it to? Then leave well enough alone. With the cost of a new desktop computer at only \$400 these days, it's easy to take the step to 7 when you get your next machine as it will be included.

Microsoft documentation regarding upgrading an existing PC to 7 is very confusing, but here are the basics; an upgrade license from 7 Home Premium will cost about \$130. You can upgrade from Vista without losing your data, but you cannot upgrade from XP – you must do a full 'fresh' install backing up all your data first. This \$130 license is for the one machine it is first installed on and can not be transferred to a new machine when the old one has hardware problems. A 'full license', which you can transfer from PC to PC (although only 1 at a time) runs you upwards of \$200.

I've been using 7 since it first was released for testing, nearly 2 years. I really do like it. It's nimble and light compared to Vista and it is much more stable than any operating system before it. It's so much more intuitive and easy to use than the Windows I've become used to. In terms of usage, it has almost passed Vista, but has a long way to go before it can replace Windows XP, the most popular operating system of all time. If I were a betting man, I would say it will be less than a year until Windows 7 surpasses XP and becomes the crown jewel in the

Windows series of operating systems. Anyone remember Windows 95? LOL! As a famous advertising slogan, now banned, once remarked “we’ve come a long way, baby”.