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Windows 7: Finally Time to Upgrade?



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Windows 7: Did Microsoft Get it Right This Time?

- Many of us felt enough pain inflicted by the abomination known as Vista to have moved back to the only safe OS harbor we knew, Windows XP Pro
- *In fact, Windows Vista was probably one of the best things to have ever happened to the Mac operating system!*
- With Windows 7, released last October, did Microsoft finally get it right? Is it time to upgrade?
- *And the biggest question . . .*



“Is it Safe?”

- In the immortal words of Dr. Szell in “Marathon Man” to Dustin Hoffman’s character . . .





A Healthy Degree of Skepticism...Thanks Vista

- My own acronym for Vista was MOPH (My Own Personal Hell)
- *Vista may well be remembered as one of the most disastrous new product releases since the “New Coke” debacle of the 1990’s*
- We really didn’t appreciate the comparative reliability of Windows XP Pro until we started to move to Vista
- *Many, wisely, performed a Vista-ectomy...*



How Many Vista Users Looked Like This?

- Umm...most of them
- *This explains the continued existence and popularity of Windows XP*
- It explains why PC makers like Dell, HP and Lenovo, even today, continue to offer Windows XP Pro as a “downgrade” option on business-class PC systems



Vista Issues: The Worst

- In its clumsy efforts to make you FEEL more secure, the User Account Control function drove users INSANE with incessantly appearing boxes asking for confirmation of many operations
- *Peripheral compatibility remained largely unresolved – especially with older printers and scanners – many needed to replace them!*



Uniform Vista Reactions: Intense Public Outcry

- *Vista was just an operating system – shouldn't operating systems just sit behind the scenes and, well . . . operate?*
- **The level and intensity of negative public reaction to Vista was unparalleled**
- *Just google a phrase like “Vista Frustration” or “Angry Vista Users” and see what you find – it was really disturbing – many sites like BadVista.org and VistaSucks.Wordpress.com*



Was There Anything Positive About Vista? Instant Search Rocked ...

- Vista finally included a search tool that actually worked! (unlike the old XP “find” function)
- *It used Windows Desktop Search to truly instantly search hard drive content*
- *Single best Vista feature, but you could add Windows Desktop Search to XP so...*
- The function is present and improved in Windows 7





Windows 7: Why Bother? Isn't XP Fine?

- It's perfectly natural, and frankly, good business to be gun-shy about upgrading to any new Microsoft operating system
- *If you're a firm, comfortably working with Windows XP Pro as your workstation OS, why in the world would you consider upgrading to Windows 7?*
- Actually there are several logical reasons for us to consider, but one predominates:



Could the Ultimate Compliment Paid to a Microsoft Operating System Come From Mac Users?

- **So the number one reason to seriously consider deploying Windows 7 is . . . drum roll please . . .**
- ***IT WORKS!***
- ***After Vista, that's saying a lot***
- **And the second reason is the number of Mac users who seem willing to admit that “it’s not too bad” (high praise for a Microsoft OS from any Mac person)**



The Practical Element of a Pro-Windows 7 Decision

- **Microsoft deserves credit for righting Vista's wrongs – Windows 7 is what we all expected Vista to be**
- *It's fast, reliable, compatible, with much more emphasis on operating system functions v. misguided focus on add-on flash that in Vista did nothing but detract from the stability of the OS*
- **And the reality is that hardware vendors are making it primarily available with new PC systems from netbooks on up**



Windows 7: Fewer Versions, Thank Goodness

- There are several versions of Windows 7:
 - **Starter Edition**: very simple, stripped back, offered on netbooks
 - **Home**: more multimedia focus for home users, doesn't include encryption available on business versions
 - **Professional**: *what most businesses including law firms should use with network domain connectivity, XP mode for older programs*
 - **Enterprise / Ultimate**: same with the only difference is the former is offered under volume license plans, includes Bitlocker protection

Windows 7 Versions

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_7_editions#Comparison_chart

Windows 7 Edition comparison chart

	Starter	Home Basic	Home Premium	Professional	Enterprise	Ultimate
Features / Availability	OEM licensing	Retail and OEM licensing in Emerging markets	Retail and OEM licensing	Retail, OEM and Volume licensing ^[27]	Volume licensing ^[27]	Retail and OEM licensing
End of Support ^[28]	2015.01.13	2015.01.13	2015.01.13	2020.01.14	2020.01.14	2015.01.13
Maximum physical memory (64-bit mode) ^{[29][30]}	N/A	8 GB	16 GB	192 GB	192 GB	192 GB
32-bit and 64-bit versions	32-bit only	Both (64-bit disc not included)	Both	Both	Both	Both
Maximum physical CPUs supported ^[31]	1	1	2	2	2	2
Backup and Restore Center ^[32]	Cannot back up to network	Cannot back up to network	Cannot back up to network	Yes	Yes	Yes
Remote Desktop (Client and Host)	Client only	Client only	Client only	Yes	Yes	Yes
Home Group (create and join)	Join only	Join only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multiple monitors	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fast user switching	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Desktop Wallpaper Changeable	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Desktop Window Manager	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Mobility Center	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Features / Availability	Starter	Home Basic	Home Premium	Professional	Enterprise	Ultimate
	OEM licensing	Retail and OEM licensing in Emerging markets	Retail and OEM licensing	Retail, OEM and Volume licensing ^[27]	Volume licensing ^[27]	Retail and OEM licensing
Windows Aero	No	Partial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multi-Touch	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Premium Games Included	No	No	Yes	Disabled by default	Disabled by default	Yes
Windows Media Center	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Media Player Remote Media Experience ^[33]	No	No	Yes ^[34]	Yes ^[34]	Yes ^[34]	Yes ^[34]
Dynamic Disks ^[35]	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Encrypting File System	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Location Aware Printing	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Network printing	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Internet connection sharing	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Presentation Mode	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Group Policy ^[36]	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offline Files and Folder redirection ^[36]	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows Server domain joining	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows XP Mode ^[37]	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Software Restriction Policies	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Aero glass remoting ^{[38][39]}	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Windows Media Player multimedia redirection ^[39]	No	No	No	No	Yes ^[34]	Yes ^[34]
Audio recording over Terminal Services ^[39]	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Multi-display Terminal	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Windows 7 Versions

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	OEM licensing	Retail and OEM licensing in Emerging markets	Retail and OEM licensing	Retail, OEM and Volume licensing ^[27]	Volume licensing ^[27]	Retail and OEM licensing
Enterprise Search Scopes ^[36] :130	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Federated Search ^[40]	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
AppLocker	No	No	No	Create Policies, But Cannot Enforce	Create and Enforce Polices	Create and Enforce Polices
BitLocker Drive Encryption	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
BranchCache Distributed Cache	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
DirectAccess	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Subsystem for Unix-based Applications	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Multilingual User Interface Pack	No	No	No	Yes, purchased separately	Yes	Yes
Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) Enhancements ^[36] :130	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Virtual Hard Disk Booting	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes



Windows 7 and Existing Systems: Upgrade or Not?

- There is no automated upgrade path from Windows XP – a “bare metal” installation is required
- *There is an automated upgrade routine from Vista versions to Windows 7 but should you leverage it?*
- Furthermore, should you upgrade ANY existing systems to Windows 7 or just acquire it on new systems?
- *Let's discuss it – my view is don't upgrade any production machines at work at all . . . unless you need to escape from Vista*



Windows 7 and New Systems?

- This is my recommendation – filter Windows 7 into your practice on new systems, where the hardware is certified and optimized for the new operating system
- *Windows Professional or Enterprise make sense for all practices v. Home or Ultimate editions*
- Bundled OEM versions with new PC hardware can sometimes be had with a free XP “downgrade.” This can either be pre-installed or included on disk
 - *This might add a comfort factor but I don’t believe any Win 7 user will ever look back*



Windows 7: Deployment Information

- **Of course, if you're acquiring Windows 7 pre-installed on new systems, this is a non-issue**
- **Microsoft has terrific resources about all aspects of manually-installed deployment**
 - **Go to Google (or Bing) and search for "Windows 7: Deployment" to get the Microsoft resource pages**
 - **Let's take a look . . .**

Windows 7 Upgrade and Migration Guide

Published: October 22, 2009

Updated: October 22, 2009

Applies To: Windows 7

Note

If you are running a prerelease installation of Windows® 7 such as the Beta or Release Candidate versions, you cannot use the **Upgrade** option during Windows 7 installation. Instead, you can migrate files and settings to a new installation of Windows 7 or restore the Windows Vista® backup you created before upgrading. For more information, see [this Microsoft Web site](#).

This document provides links and information for upgrading or migrating user content when deploying a new installation of Windows 7. *Upgrade* means you can install Windows 7 by inserting the Windows 7 DVD and following the instructions on your screen. When you use the **Upgrade** option, your files and applications are maintained on the computer and do not need to be reinstalled. The **Upgrade** option is available in Windows 7 Setup for some computers running Windows Vista®, but it is not available for Windows XP.

You must migrate user content that you want to maintain when installing Windows 7 onto any computer running Windows XP. *Migrate* means that you save files and settings in a safe location, such as on a USB drive or a network share, prior to installing Windows 7 on your computer. When the installation is complete, you can move the files and settings from the safe location to the computer running Windows 7.

For more information about upgrade availability, see [this Microsoft Web site](#).

Note

Before installing any operating system, check that your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements for the version of the operating system you want to install. You should also back up your data files, or save them to a safe location, before upgrading. For more information about hardware requirements, see [this Microsoft Web site](#).

Large Deployments

For large deployments of Windows 7 where it may be impractical to upgrade individual computers, you can use Windows® User State Migration Tool (USMT) 4.0 to automate the migration. USMT uses configurable migration rule (.xml) files to control exactly which user accounts, user files, operating-system settings, and application settings are migrated and how they are migrated. You can use USMT for both side-by-side migrations, where one piece of hardware is being replaced, or wipe-and-load (or refresh) migrations, when only the operating system is being upgraded.

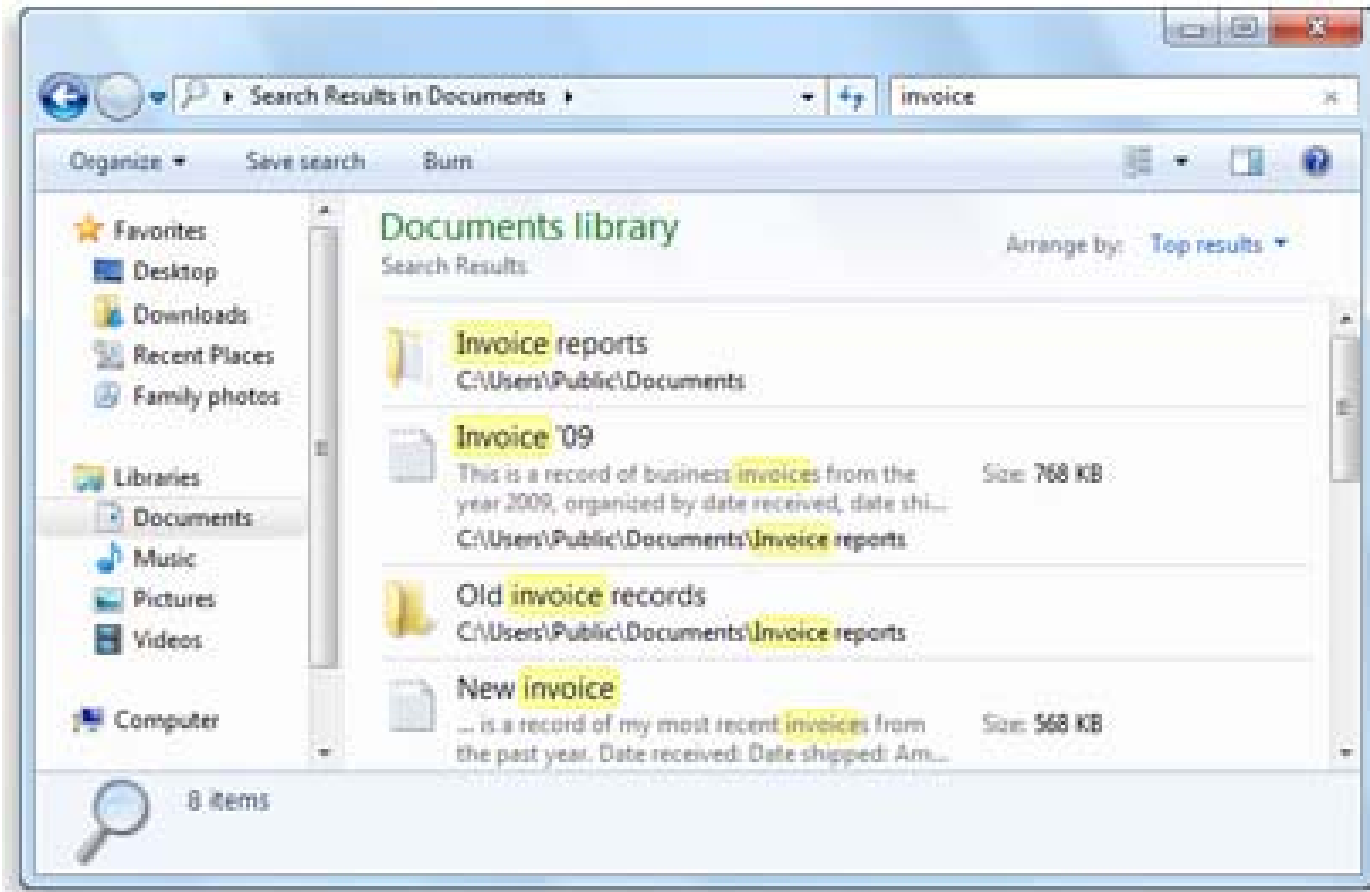
For more information about the User State Migration Tool, see [this Microsoft Web site](#) or the [Step-by-Step: Basic Windows Migration using USMT for IT Professionals](#).

For more information about some of the upgrade and migration issues that should be considered when performing a large deployment, see [this Microsoft Web site](#).



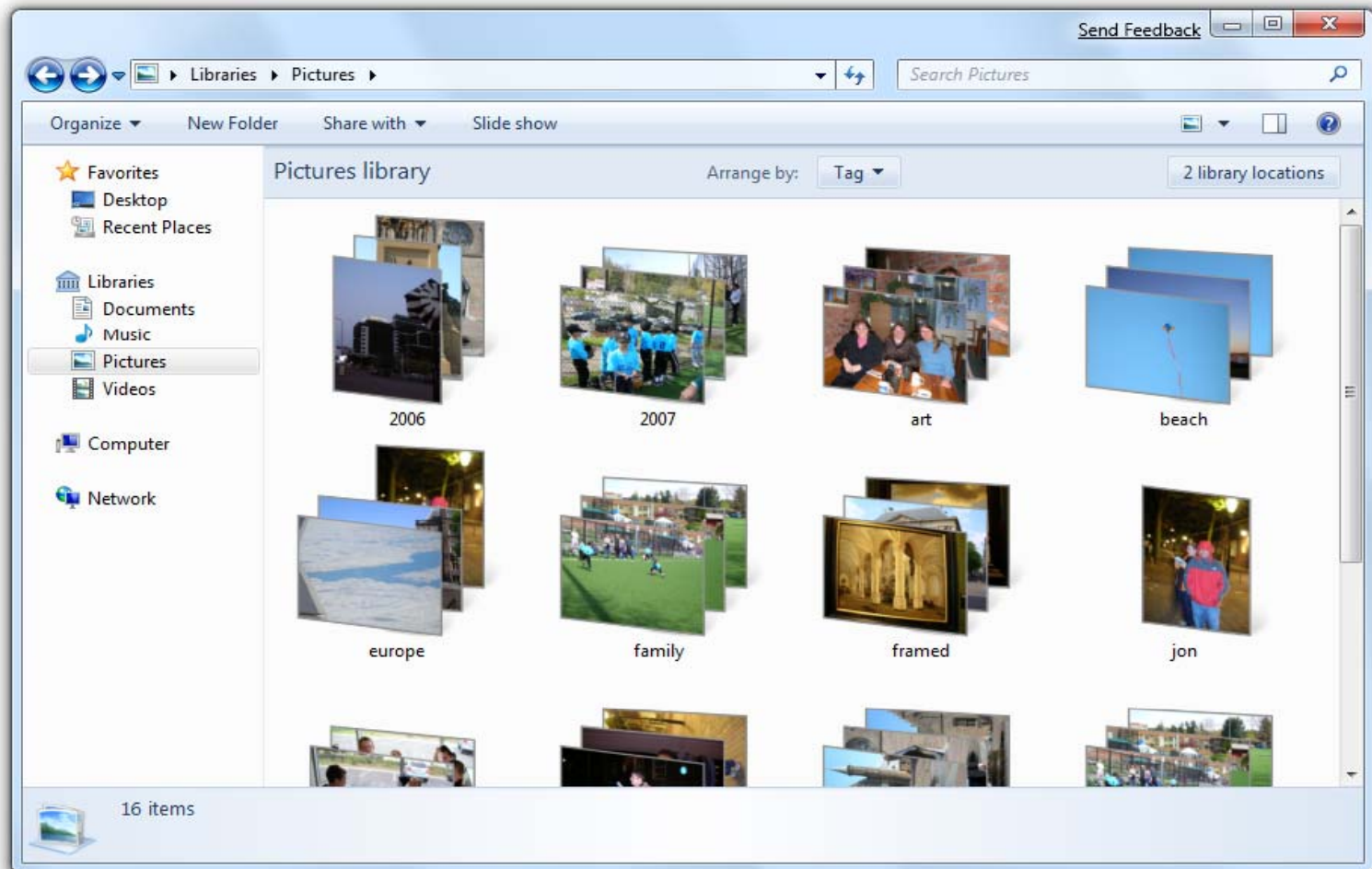
Windows 7 Features Useful in Any Law Practice

Search functions – major enhancements and speed increases (“Spotlight-like”)



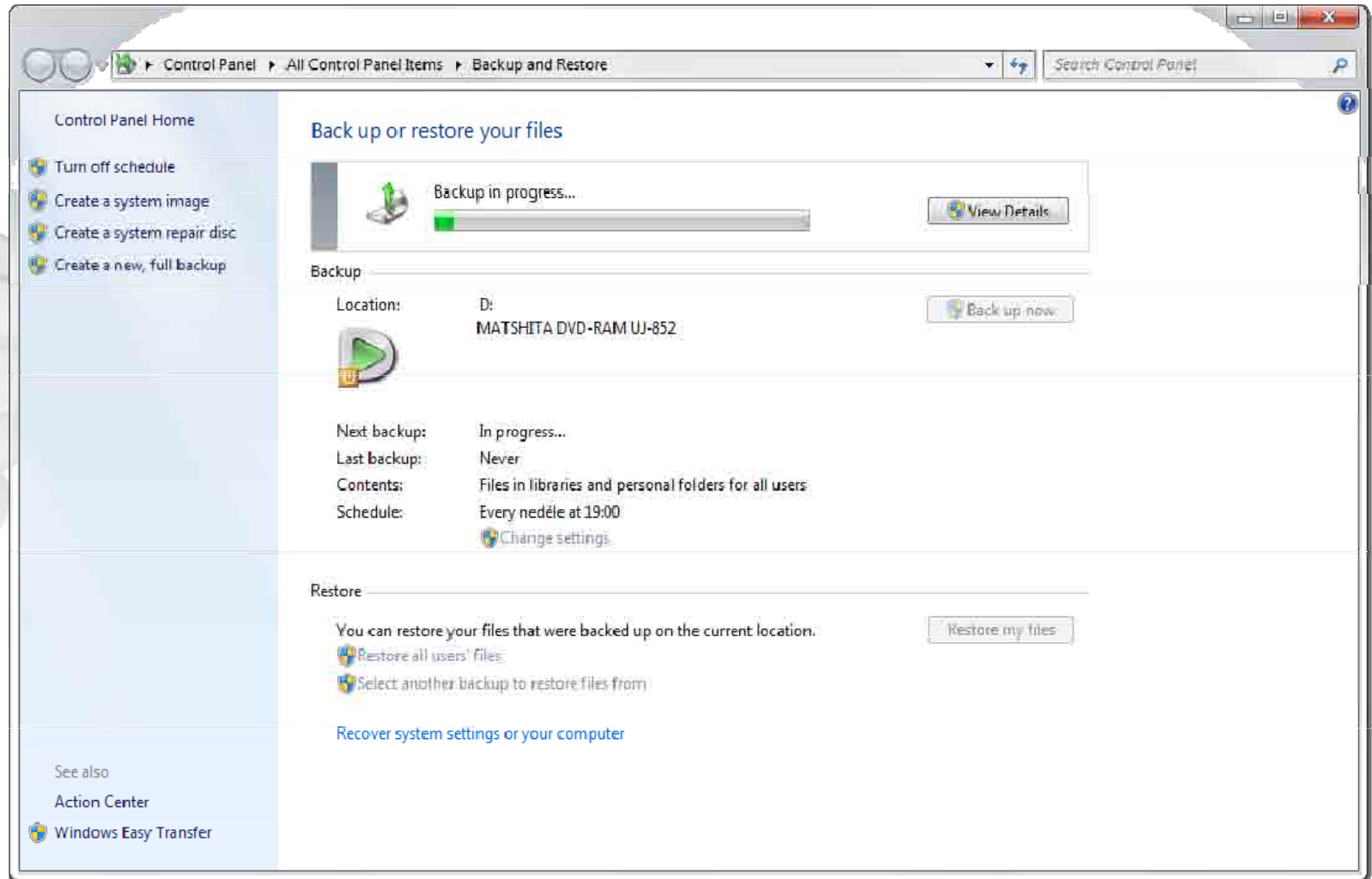


Libraries allow files of any type to be grouped together regardless of where they're physically located (i.e. discovery spread across several document subtype folders, seen as if they were in a single file)



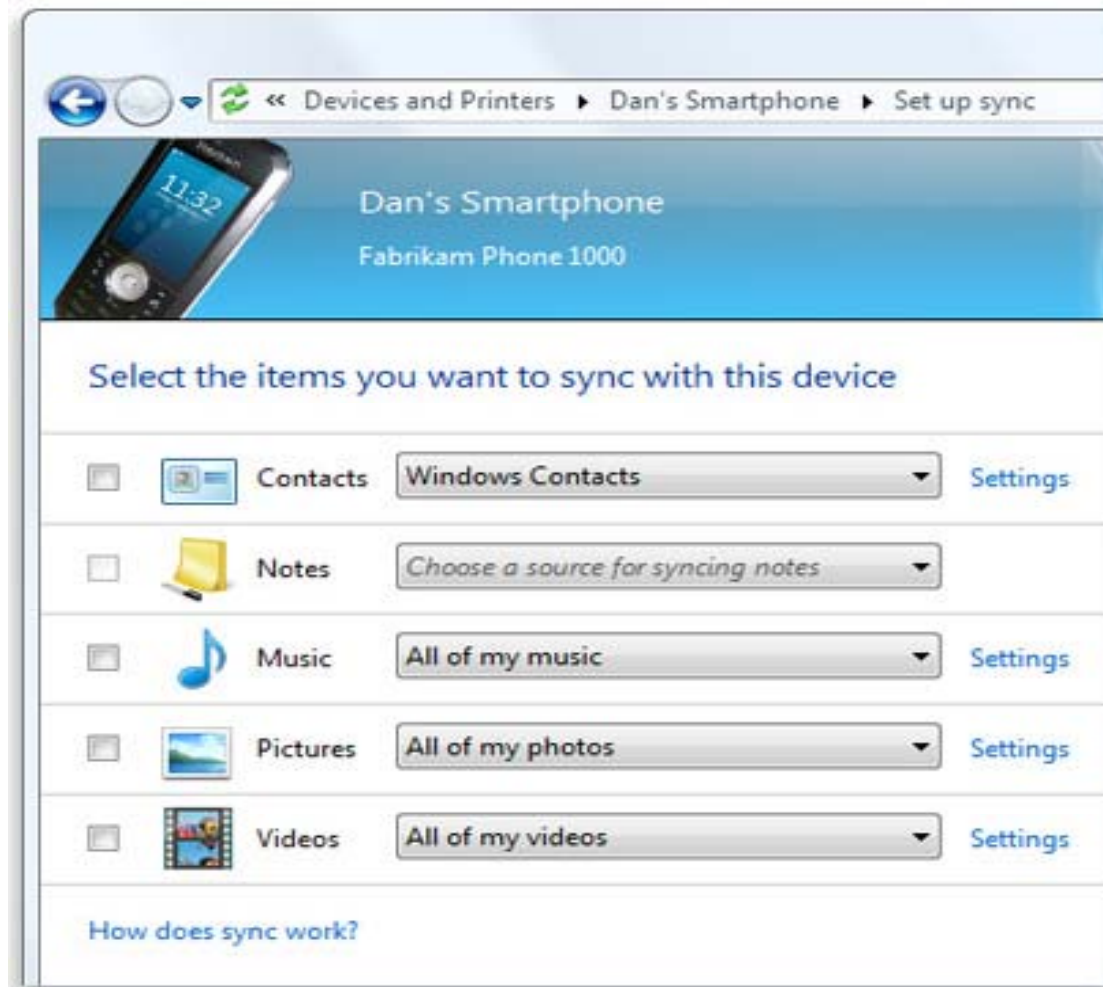


Windows Backup – no longer an oxymoron! It actually works including file-by-file and system image approaches – damned well about time!



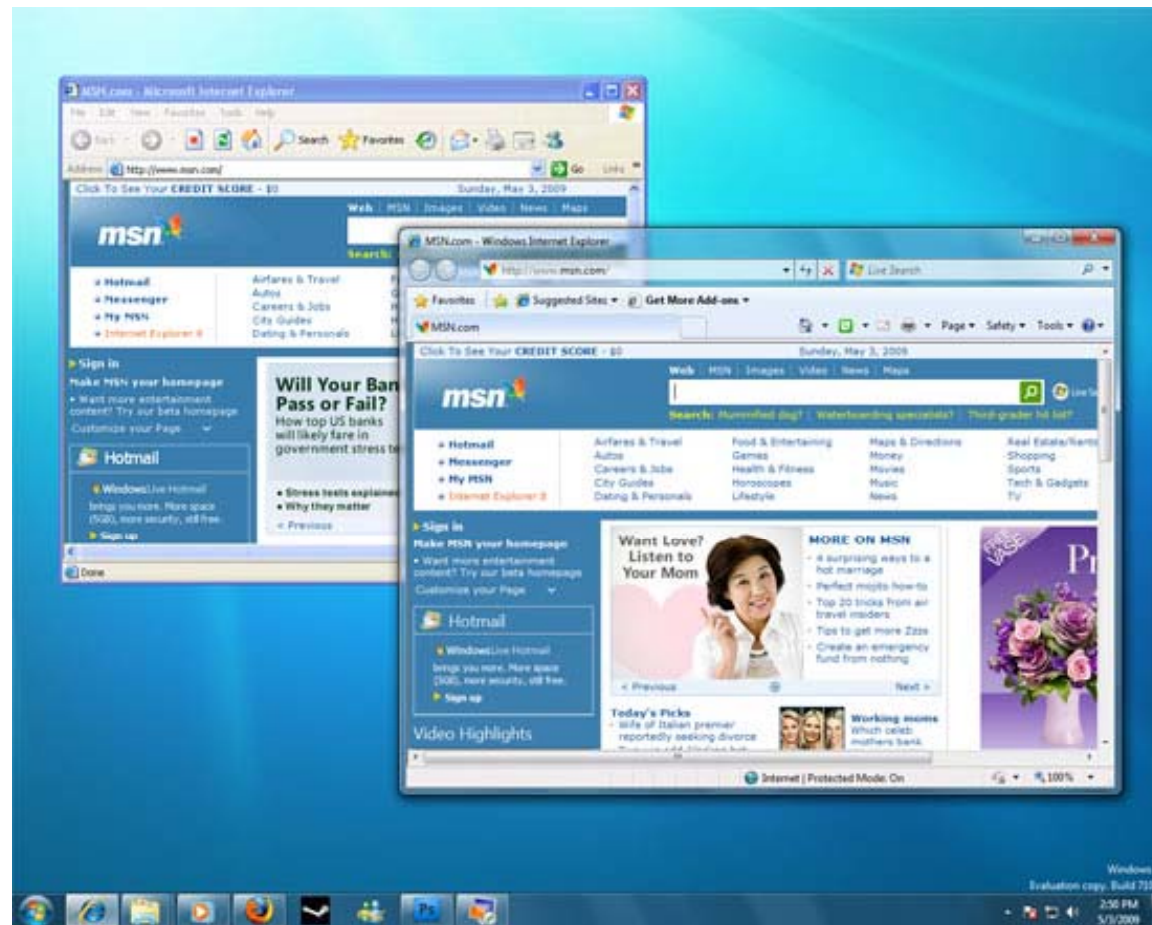


Smart syncing to smartphones and other devices – with device-specific flexibility – so set up syncing to a laptop (from a network or desktop), and to your latest smartphone



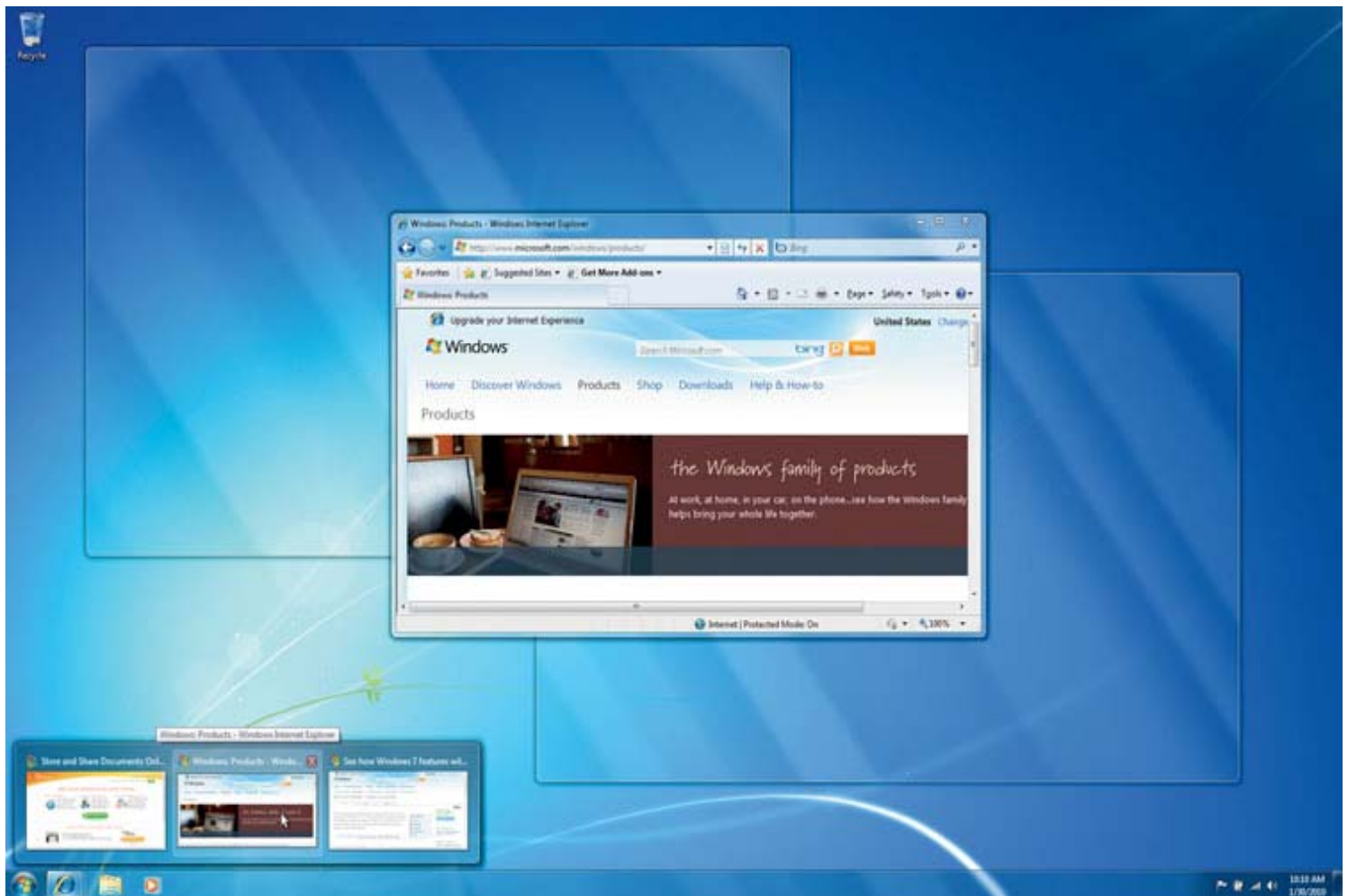


Windows 7 takes a very smart approach to running older applications with a virtual XP mode that is not altogether different than the idea of running Windows on a virtual machine on a Mac – it's solid, reliable and it works if an XP app needs it





A host of convenience functions fall into the “why didn’t I think of that” category and lend to Windows 7’s Mac-like-ness (the ultimate compliment?). Here’s the “peek” function to see what’s currently running.





Aero Shake and Snap are two simple examples of helpful functions. Aero Shake lets you quickly minimize all but the window you need to work with. Snap easily tiles two windows, horizontally or vertically. Small but helpful...





Windows 7: Did Microsoft Get it Right This Time?

The bottom line is an emphatic “yes” – perhaps indicative of a new Microsoft with a string of recent successes:

- Windows 7
- Windows 2008 Server
- Microsoft Office 2007 and the forthcoming 2010
- Bing
- Sharepoint’s continuing development
- I’ve given Microsoft a heavy dose of grief over my career, and while I’ve never been a Kool-Aid drinker, I’m a pragmatic realist – Microsoft is steering the smartest, clearest, most user-focused path of its entire corporate existence – a good thing for all of us (now, just make things cheaper!!)



Windows 7: Take-Away Points – What to Do Now?

- **Windows 7 is definitely ready for prime-time and finally a worthy successor to Windows XP Pro**
- **Avoid deploying as an upgrade on existing systems if possible**
- **Deploy Windows 7 Professional or Enterprise (ideally, 64-bit versions) on systems equipped with at least 4 and ideally 8+ Gb of RAM**
- **Acquire Windows 7 as an OEM product pre-installed on new hardware certified for Windows 7 use**
- **And then you can finally stand up to the criticism of your growing cadre of Mac-using friends with a desktop operating system that actually OPERATES**

Thank You for Listening – I'm Happy to Help with Windows 7 Issues



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