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January 2007

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The President, George Bell and members of the committee wish everyone a Happy New Year.

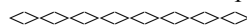


Happy New Year to Members of the Penrith Valley Seniors Computer Club.

There is no *Weekly Schedule for Computer Courses* displayed this month as there will be some extra classes added before the club recommence on Monday 5th February 2007. The Club Newsletter for February will be released at the end of January, listing the new classes. Your previous classes will remain the same so you can recommence your tuition where you left off at the end of 2006.



The clubs Christmas party was well attended and all present had an enjoyable time.



2007 will be an interesting year for the club with the introduction of 'Paint Shop Pro XI' and copies of "OpenOffice" on offer to members interested in the Office suite. OpenOffice is similar to Windows Office without the price tag, OpenOffice is freeware.

Microsoft in late January will release their new computer operating software, Windows Vista. This version has been in development for five years.

The new Vista operating software is offered in 5 versions instead of 2 versions of Windows XP. What will it cost for Windows Vista, compared to XP?

MS Windows XP Home SP2 full version is \$324.

The price of MS Vista are as follows. The upgrade are for those who already own XP.

Windows Vista Home Basic – \$385

Windows Vista Home Basic Upgrade - \$199

Windows Vista Home Premium - \$455

Windows Vista Home Premium Upgrade Academic - \$179

Windows Vista Home Premium Upgrade - \$299

Windows Vista Ultimate - \$751

Windows Vista Ultimate Upgrade - \$495

Windows Vista Business - \$565

Windows Vista Business Upgrade - \$379.

The Vista Home Basic as the chart below show is very basic as its mainly all about security, faster search of your files and Internet Explorer 7.

You can upgrade XP with updates to match Vista Home Basic.....

Extra security from virus and scam attacks can be obtained with third party software. Faster search of your files is much the same as XP's 'Prefetch' only Vista will pre-fetches more information.

Internet Explorer 7 can be downloaded from Microsoft and installed on to an XP computer. (Firefox 2 is far better than Internet Explorer 7) with Opera a close second)).

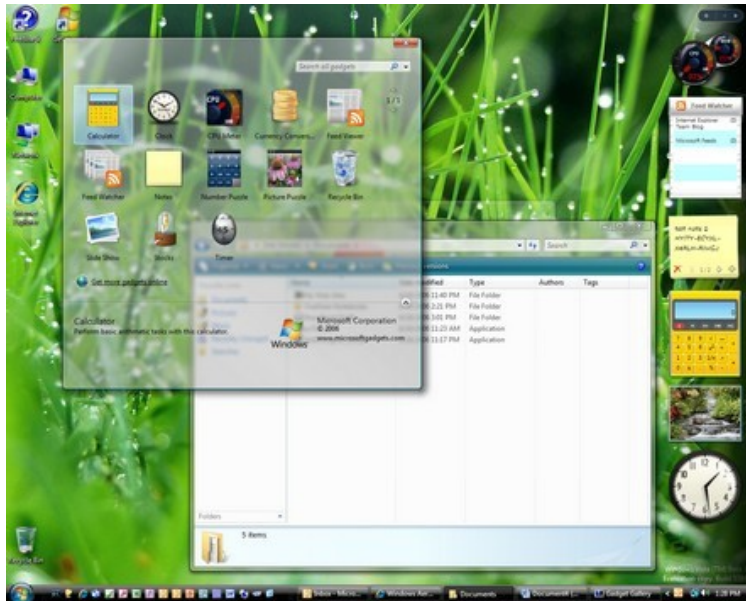
So is Windows Vista Home Basic worth– \$385? I feel it would be better to stay with XP and see how the new operating system performs.

The Windows Vista Home Premium priced at \$455 is an operating system designed for next-generation computers.

If you don't have a 64-bit processor + 2gb or RAM + PCI express video, then don't bother. Installing Vista on a 2ghz system w/ 512 RAM is the equivalent of installing

XP on a 486 DX computer. You could probably get it to work but would have nothing but problems.

Windows Vista Home Premium has the new Elegant Windows Aero desktop. To use this impressive new desktop you will need a high powered video card.



If your video card supports the Aero Glass interface, you get translucent title bars, cool animations and lots of special icons, as shown.

When it arrives in January, it won't be like Windows 98 a must-have upgrade as the new operating system will require a newer computer. The XP experience showed that many users, in homes and offices alike, stuck with earlier versions of Windows (most notably the 98 and 2000 editions) for a good few years. Their "upgrade" to XP came only when they bought a new computer that had Windows XP pre-loaded.

This should hold true for Vista. A computer that is more than two years old will be best kept running Windows XP, and many of the most compelling demonstrations of Vista will rely on the latest hardware.

For those reasons, I suggest that the very best desktop or laptop for Vista will be the one you buy with Vista already installed.

*The comments are from the editor's research on Windows Vista and are not associated with The Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc
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Features	Home Basic	Home Premium	Business	Ultimate
Most secure Windows ever with Windows Defender and Windows Firewall	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quickly find what you need with Instant Search and Windows Internet Explorer 7	✓	✓	✓	✓
Elegant Windows Aero desktop experience with Windows Flip 3D navigation		✓	✓	✓
Best choice for laptops with enhanced Windows Mobility Center and Tablet PC support		✓	✓	✓
Collaborate and share documents with Windows Meeting Space		✓	✓	✓
Experience photos and entertainment in your living room with Windows Media Center		✓		✓
Enjoy Windows Media Center on TVs throughout your home with Xbox 360™ and other devices		✓		✓
Help protect against hardware failure with advanced business backup features			✓	✓
Business networking and Remote Desktop for easier connectivity			✓	✓
Better protect your data against loss or theft with Windows BitLocker™ Drive Encryption				✓

As mentioned Vista has a fast search file. Start typing a word into the Search box that appears at the bottom of the revamped Start menu, and Vista runs up a list of all matching files, which can range from documents and emails to digital music tracks and even photographs "tagged" with descriptive keywords. The list progressively narrows as you type each letter of the word, while a preview pane shows the contents of each file to save you opening the wrong one.

This is a neat feature but it relies on a "Prefetch" data file that continues to up-date each time you make changes to document files or any other file you change. As the word suggest it gathers this data information file on start-up. This can slow your start-up and use extra memory and disc storage.

Windows XP has a similar "Prefetch" to assist the user to find files much faster when using "Search".

To see how much information your computer has stored in it's Prefetch folder, Left click [Start] left click [Run] and type in prefetch and click OK.

The computer should show a list of files you have used and changed over the last month or so.



Coffee Break

Question on Software or Operating system.

Disk Cleanup Utility

To keep a PC running smoothly, regular maintenance is critical. Many users shy away from maintenance tasks, thinking it is a long, drawn out manual affair, but the Disk Cleanup Utility can easily determine which files on a hard drive may no longer be needed and delete those files. In addition to freeing up potentially significant amounts of hard drive space, using Disk Cleanup on a regular basis can significantly improve system performance.

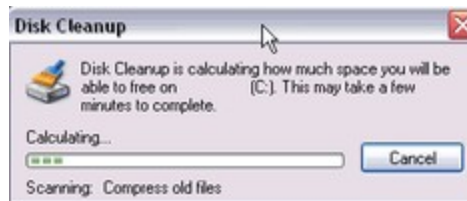
Starting Disk Cleanup

Disk Cleanup is available on both Home and Professional versions of XP. The utility can be accessed from the steps below. Click [Start] [Programs] [Accessories] [System Tools] [Disk Cleanup]



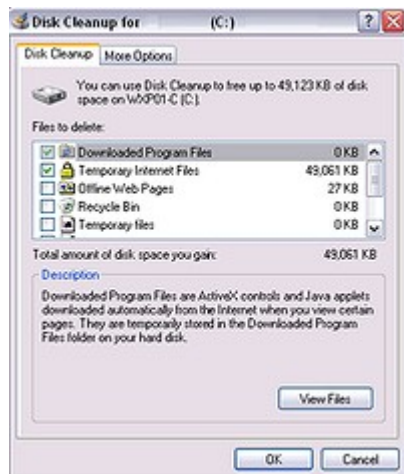
Select the drive and click OK.

The computer takes a few minutes to scan for the files.



XP shows the files that can be safely removed. Click on each listing and a Description on that file folder is displayed in the lower frame.

Click OK to clean out temporary files.



Note Disk Cleanup can compress old files. Files are considered old when older than 50 days.

The compressed files are still accessible--Windows decompresses them on the fly when you open them--but they may take a little longer to open. You can tell a file is compressed because its file name is blue in Windows Explorer.

Is compressing files safe? The technology has been around for about a decade now, and it's well supported by utilities, so yes, it's probably safe.

Whenever you want to return a compressed file to its uncompressed state, right-click it and select Properties. Click the Advanced button, uncheck Compress contents to save disk space, and click OK.

