

**Sun City Summerlin  
Computer Club**

**Microsoft Windows  
XP and Vista  
*Side by Side***

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TNB 02-28-08

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**Agenda**



- Introduction
- Desktop
- Start Menu
- Task Bar
- Windows Explorer
- System Properties
- User Accounts
- Vista Security
- To Upgrade or Not



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## Introduction

- This seminar will look at some key areas of both XP and Vista, comparing and contrasting each.
- Objective is to help XP users recently converted or planning to move to Vista to better navigate in Vista.
- Major focus is on questions of the type:
  - “Where is it?”
  - “How do I?”
  - “What’s new in Vista?”
- More Information
  - <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsxp/default.aspx>
  - <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/default.aspx>
  - <http://www.techtutorials.net>
  - <http://www.learnthat.com>
- Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor
  - <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getready/upgradeadvisor/default.aspx>

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## Windows Desktop

### Windows XP

- Main surface for placing icons and folders.
- Can set wallpaper, patterned background or plain background.
- Many settings options – right click and select Properties.
- Demo ...

### Windows Vista

- Main surface for placing icons and folders.
- Can set wallpaper, patterned background or plain background.
- Many settings options – right click and select Personalize.
- Sidebar is new.
- Demo ...

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## Windows Start Menu

### Windows XP

- Area for starting programs.
- Links to programs, folders and functions in two column layout.
- “All Programs” organized as hierarchical cascading menus.
- Many options – right click in Task Bar and select Properties.
- Demo ...

### Windows Vista

- Area for starting programs.
- Links to programs, folders and functions in two column layout.
- “All Programs” organized as vertical column of menus.
- New “Search” window.
- Many options – right click in Task Bar and select Properties.
- Demo ...

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## Windows Task Bar

### Windows XP

- Area for tracking programs.
- Quick launch, main area, links area and notification area.
- Flat appearance.
- Many options – right click in Task Bar and select Properties.
- Demo ...

### Windows Vista

- Area for tracking programs.
- Quick launch, main area, links area and notification area.
- More rounded appearance.
- Many options – right click in Task Bar and select Properties.
- Demo ...

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## Windows Explorer

### Windows XP

- Manages files and folders.
- Menu bar, address bar, tool bar, folder area, search area.
- Folder tree has + and - icons.
- Many options – use View and Tools menus.
- Demo ...

### Windows Vista

- Manages files and folders.
- Menu bar, address bar, tool bar, folder area, search area.
- Folder tree has Arrow icons.
- Many options – uses Views and Organize menus.
- Many new features.
- Demo ...

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## Windows System Properties

### Windows XP

- Tabbed dialog to set many properties of the system.
- Access from Control Panel or right click My Computer and select Properties.
- Demo ...

### Windows Vista

- Set of dialogs to set many properties of the system.
- Access from Control Panel or right click Computer and select Properties. Then select Change settings
- Demo ...

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## Windows User Accounts

### Windows XP

- Can define any number of user Accounts.
- Each has unique user name and optional password/.
- Account types are Administrator and Limited. Also a Guest account.
- Each account has a separate top-level personal folder.
- C:\Documents and Settings\- Contains subfolders for documents, favorites, application settings, cookies, etc.
- Demo ...

### Windows Vista

- Can define any number of user Accounts.
- Each has unique user name and optional password/.
- Account types are Administrator and Standard. Also a Guest account.
- Each account has a separate top-level personal folder.
- C:\Users\- Contains subfolders for documents, favorites, application settings, cookies, etc.
- Administrator accounts more restricted via UAC.
- Demo ...

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## Vista Security

- Security
  - Major focus of Vista development effort.
  - Many fixes deal with Internet Explorer and E-mail.
- Windows Vista more resistant to mal-ware by design.
- Better Support for hardware Data Execution Protection.
- Vista provides a built-in “two-way” fire wall.
  - But outbound default is to NOT block or warn!
- Vista also includes built-in Windows Defender.
  - Anti-spyware scanner and blocker.
- User Account Control (See next slide).
- Better support for data encryption (Vista Business).

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## Vista User Account Control

- UAC can help prevent unauthorized changes to your computer.
- UAC works by prompting you for permission when a task requires administrative rights, such as installing software or changing settings that affect other users.
- Can turn it off in Control Panel > User Accounts.
- Recommend you leave it on.

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## Windows Genuine Advantage

- Newest MS “anti-piracy” system - also on XP.
  - Combination of installed software and web databases.
  - Vista’s WGA “phones home” regularly.
- A specific retail copy of Windows XP or Vista can only be installed on one system at a time (family and volume licenses available).
- Can call MS to get a new Activation Key if you need to reinstall and reactivate. You *must* have your Product Key.
- If you bought a new PC, make sure you have the Product Key (should be on back of case).
- WGA also regularly verifies your license is “valid”.
  - If not, Windows Vista **degrades into a limited function mode** until you “pay up” to get a valid license.
  - Can’t download updates, only one hour of Internet, other blocks.
  - Note - these “kill switch” restrictions reportedly are relaxed in Vista SP1.

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## To Upgrade or Not

- Windows Vista ships pre-installed on most new PCs.
  - \$700 to \$900 buys a very nice “Premium Ready” PC with 17” flat panel.
- For existing Windows XP users
  - Not recommended unless your hardware is pretty new.
  - If Vista “in-place” upgrade fails, you can’t revert back to XP. (So you really need to make a whole system backup first!)
  - If you do upgrade, plan on spending ~ \$100 for other software.
  - You can add WMP 11 and IE 7 to Windows XP. (Free downloads from Microsoft or cheap CDs).
- Windows Product Activation / Windows Genuine Advantage
  - Forces you to buy a separate copy of Vista for each PC.
- Vista Service Pack 1 available for download in March.
- MS now says Win XP Home “Extended Support” to 2014.

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## Questions And Answers

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