

Microsoft Windows Vista - Features Overview

Content summarized from the information posted November 2005 on
<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/>

Experience

Visualizations... you can see what your files contain without opening them, find applications and files instantly, navigate efficiently among open windows... how windows move when they are minimized have been improved... making it easier to locate later.

Thumbnails... scalable thumbnails are used...to show you the actual first page for documents...photo...screen capture for videos...album art. By previewing the actual contents of a file at a glance, you'll find what you want more quickly.

Organization

Windows Sidebar... connects your desktop with... "gadgets"

Folders & Virtual Folders... a saved search that is instantly run when you open the folder... any time you click on this Virtual Folder, Windows Vista runs the search.

Properties... File properties or metadata, such as the author of a document, artist of a song, or a keyword on a picture, can be added to your files and be used to find and organize content.

Quick Search Box and Column Headers... typing the name or the first few letters of any displayed property, and the displayed files quickly filter down to just the matching terms... Column Header drop down menus let you easily choose your filter values.

Internet Explorer Quick Tabs / RSS... provides new tools to give users direct access to the information... built-in support for... RSS.

Reliability

Fewer Application Restarts... more resilient to application problems and can recover better from problems that do occur.

Detects Impending Failures... built-in diagnostics can proactively detect problems with system components such as hard disks, memory, and networks... notifies you and walks you through the problem resolution.

File Shadow Copies... allows you to recover prior versions of an accidentally overwritten or deleted file without backup. Windows Vista incorporates... without needing a server.

Multi-tiered Data Protection... full-volume encryption. The entire system partition is encrypted-both the hibernation file and the user data.

Sharing

Computer-to-Computer Search... you can instantly search the public folders on another Windows Vista computer... through a distributed search.

Computer-to-Computer Synchronization... Windows Vista makes it simple for you to pick any folder on a local computer and then roam that content to your other Windows Vista PC on the same network.

Metro Docs... This format can be created directly from any application... a page-by-page view of content as it would have been rendered by a printer. Metro documents retain all of the fidelity of the original source material and all the necessary resources such as fonts and images for rendering... it is also an ideal archival format...

Security

Parental Controls... providing powerful tools to help parents monitor, manage, and administer their children's computer usage to keep them safe.

User Account Protection... run applications under a standard user account. When you need to perform an administrative task... Vista prompts you to confirm your intentions or to provide your credentials.

Custom Authentication Mechanisms... improved Smart Card support.

Firewall... outgoing as well as incoming filtering...

Internet Explorer... limit Internet Explorer to just enough privileges to browse the Web, but not enough to modify user files or settings by default.

Data Protection... integrated Rights Management client allows organizations to enforce policies around document usage. The Encrypting File System,...allow storage of encryption keys on Smart Cards... full volume encryption enterprise feature adds machine-level data protection.

Email... Vista e-mail client addresses...spam and attachment viruses...features to enable you to search and manage...messages.

Protection from Malware... built-in anti-malware detection, cleaning, and real-time blocking are primarily targeted at individual users. Windows Vista does not include enterprise management for anti-malware via group policy beyond enabling or disabling the protection.

Network Access Protection... agent in Windows Vista, along with the Network Access Protection infrastructure, which will be included with Longhorn Server, will prevent computers from connecting to an internal network until configured system health criteria...are met.

Windows Services Hardening... preventing a compromised service from changing important configuration settings in the file system or registry or from infecting other computers on the network.

Mobile

Power Management... includes an updated, easy-to-find battery meter that tells you at a glance... battery life.

Mobile Settings... Vista includes a group of presentation settings that you can invoke with a simple click when you connect to a display device.

Networked Projection... allows...Vista...to detect a nearby projector that is a network-connected device and lets you establish a connection through a wired or wireless...network.

Windows Mobility Center... mobile-related system settings are aggregated in one... place.

Group Collaboration... small group collaboration is now possible... users can easily and securely transfer files and broadcast presentations and documents directly to each computer...

Safe Sleep & Quick Resume... sleep state...combines the speed of Standby mode and the data protection and low power consumption of Hibernate.

Windows SideShow... includes a hardware reference design, external display operating system, and API set to enable the display of PC-based information... on a secondary or auxiliary display that you can see immediately whether the laptop is on, off, or in sleep mode.

Wireless Networking ... consistent and secure wireless connection experience... new Network Location Awareness Service (NLA2) keeps your... PC aware of... the network's changing capabilities.

Assistance

User Assistance... enables IT professionals to customize User Assistance...

Remote Assistance... enhanced, featuring faster performance and the ability to assist users at home, on the road, or from a remote location. Remote Assistance has been rewritten as a standalone application,... optimized to use less network bandwidth and is able to transverse Network Address Translators (NATs)... new features for... session logging...

Help & Feedback... Improved user assistance (UA) resources and tools... will help users help themselves... IT professionals can integrate their own corporate Help content... Vista provides centralized support tools and resources to quickly diagnose and resolve issues.

Windows Update... delivers content aimed at fixing vulnerabilities for Windows, applications built on top of Windows, and improvements to those software products.