

Windows Vista: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

SELCO Technology Users Group

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The Road to Vista

2001 - 2002

- July 25, 2001—Longhorn announced with 2003 ship date
- April 2002—Ship date moved back to 2004
- June 2002—Bill Gates reveals that Longhorn is to be much larger release than planned

The Road to Vista 2003

- Development continues, including several features that never made it into the final product:
 - WinFS
 - Synchronization between people and objects
 - Download Manager
- Aero makes its first appearance

The Road to Vista 2004

- April 2004—Rumors spread that MS has bitten off more than it could chew
- MS secretly decides to scrap Longhorn and start over
- MS continues to promote the old version of Longhorn
- August 2004—Ship date pushed back to 2006

The Road to Vista 2005

- Windows XP SP 2 released
- Internet Explorer 7 released
- Development work continues
- Developer and journalism communities grow restless as the wait for new builds grows
- MS announces the “Longhorn Reset” and releases Build 5048 to universal groans

The Road to Vista 2005

- It's going to be called Vista!
- MS announces that Office 12 (later known as Office 2007) will not require Vista
- Pre-release testing announced
- New builds start to look like the Vista we have today

The Road to Vista 2006

- Development and testing continues
- March 2006—MS announces that Vista will be released to manufacturers in October
- Some testers decry loss of previously-promised features
- May 2006—Gartner delivers “Vista Deathwatch”

The Road to Vista 2006

- August 2006—Build 5536 released and things start to look better for Vista
- September 2006—Release Candidate 1
- October 2006—Release Candidate 2
- November 8, 2006—Release to Manufacturer!



Let's Take a Look...

The Good

- Vista Security is a major improvement over previous versions
- The new User Interface is beautiful and provides real enhancements to usability, such as Search

The Bad

- Vista is a memory hog—plan on at least 2 GB of RAM on the PC
- Inconsistency in bundled applications and utilities interfaces
- Incompatibility with niche applications and hardware



The Ugly



The Ugly

Warning: Personal
Opinions to Follow

The Ugly

- UAC is annoying and will drive you crazy

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Maybe

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Maybe
- UAC becomes less intrusive after you've installed applications and configured the PC
- It really does provide protection from malware

The Ugly

- Vista is a resource hog that will slow your PC down to a crawl

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False

The Ugly

- Vista is a resource hog that will slow your PC down to a crawl

False

- PCs less than two years old that are properly equipped will run Vista
- Don't upgrade an existing PC to Vista; just wait until you buy a new one

The Ugly

- None of your old software or peripherals will work with Vista

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False, mostly

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False, mostly

- Compatibility has been good and is getting better
- Some vendors have slow to produce Vista-friendly drivers and/or software

What's SELCO Doing with Vista?

- Vista support available on December 01, 2007
- All PCs purchased through SELCO after December 01, 2007 will run Vista Business
- SELCO will continue to support Windows XP Professional
 - No End of Life is being planned
 - Libraries that purchase PCs may use XP

What's SELCO Doing with Vista?

- Vista PCs will be downgraded to Windows XP in cases of demonstrated incompatibility or serious problems
 - Horizon
 - Pharos
 - Microsoft Shared Computer Toolkit

Which Online Library Will be First?

- Lanesboro Public!