

Larry's newsLETTER

What's New with Windows 7?

Windows 7 certainly does offer new features. But, it also improves on Vista. It offers better boot times. And it performs better on machines with multi-core processors. And, User Account Control can be tweaked. You can make it less intrusive than in Vista.

Its tools will help you fine-tune type and calibrate your monitor.

Moreover, Windows 7 improves the way you interact with your computer. Support for speech and handwriting recognition is improved.

Touch screen support is also improved. For example, Windows now boasts multi-touch. The iPhone popularized multi-touch. You can use your fingers to resize photos and the like. You'll need a track pad that supports multi-touch.

The most noticeable changes have been made to the taskbar. You can pin programs to it. Drag and drop to rearrange the programs.

When you mouse over program buttons, you'll see thumbnail previews. Hold your mouse over one of these thumbnails for a full-screen preview.

You can also access jump lists from the taskbar. Right-click a program button for quick access to frequently used files. You can also perform common commands. Send an e-mail or shuffle your music.

Managing open windows is easier in Windows 7. You can maximize a window by dragging its title bar to the top of the screen. Shake the title bar to minimize all other windows. You can also snap documents to the screen edges for easy comparison. Just drag a document window to the left side of the screen. Then drag one to the right.

One of the coolest features is Peek. To view desktop, mouse over the Show Desktop button. Open windows become invisible. Click the button to minimize all windows.

You'll also appreciate Windows' new libraries feature. Libraries group files by type, no matter where they're stored. That makes it a snap to back up or locate photos, for example.

There's also HomeGroup, which makes file and printer sharing easier. When you join your home network, simply enter the password. Then, select the locations you would like to share. You can access your media files over the Internet. You can even access a user's files when the user isn't logged on!

New features for Professional and Ultimate versions

Windows XP Mode lets you run Windows XP programs directly from the desktop.



Techie Term:

root directory - the main hard drive window.



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You won't need to worry about older programs working. You'll still need to download virtualization software. Microsoft offers it for free.

Domain Join makes it easier for you to connect to a domain. Domains are used in business environments. You'll be able to join quickly and securely.

Windows has long offered backup tools. But it has added a new trick. You can back up your data over your network. That makes it easy to save backups of several machines in a single **location**.

Missing features

Microsoft hasn't just added features to Windows 7. It has also removed some programs that you've come to expect. For example, you won't find an e-mail program or video-editing program.

Microsoft still offers these free programs. You'll just need to download them from Windows Live. You can get everything that's been cut from Windows 7 in Windows Live Essentials.

You'll also find a few new programs to download. Family Safety will help you monitor and control your kids' Internet usage. Or, publish blog posts with Writer.

Microsoft says it plans to offer more frequent updates for these programs.

Windows 7 versions

As with Windows Vista, there are several versions of Windows 7. Each is a little different.

Upgrading to Windows 7

If you're upgrading from Windows XP, you'll need to do a clean install of Windows7. You'll have to reinstall your programs. Your data will be wiped off the hard drive. So, back it up.

If you have a Vista machine, you can do an in-place upgrade. You won't need to reinstall your programs, and your data shouldn't be affected. However, there are some caveats.

First, If you switch from 32- to 64-bit or vice versa, a clean install is needed. Also, you must select a corresponding or better version of Windows 7. Otherwise, a clean install is required.

Whether you need a clean install or not, play it safe. Back up your data before installing Windows 7.



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Sponsored search results lead to malware

The ads served by Bing and Google along with your search results are linking more and more often to sites trying to infect your machine.

Neither Bing nor Google effectively prescreens these bogus advertisers, so it's up to us to detect and avoid them.

You may have recently used either Google or Microsoft's new Bing search engine to find popular anti-virus and anti-malware utilities. If so, chances are good that the sponsored ads alongside your search results contained links to the very malware that the security tool is designed to remove.

The three largest search sites — Google, Yahoo, and Bing — regularly sell security-related keywords to criminals looking to trick you into downloading and installing fake anti-malware products. The crooks then steal your personal information or hold your system for ransom before letting you remove their malware from your machine.

The search providers have been aware of this for years. To their discredit, they've done little to end the practice, even though it's in their power to do so. The reason? They're making money hand over fist from those sponsored text ads and don't want to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

As search terms become popular, scammers jump at the chance to have their bogus ads appear among the results. To get their deceptive ads into these highly visible search results, these criminals simply buy these high-traffic terms from the search engines.

Condensed Article by Susan Bradley

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"There is one terrifying word in the world of nuclear physics."

"Oops."

-- Film

Narrator and Tom Servo, "Mystery Science Theater 3000"

A Useless But Interesting FACT:

Dr. David Bradley one of twelve engineers working on the original IBM PC invented the warm boot (activated by pressing the control, alt and delete keys simultaneously on the keyboard) to allow PC users to restart their computer without having to do a complete shut down and restart.

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