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Newsletter

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## Technology News - Windows 7 is here!

### WINDOWS 7 IS RELEASED OCTOBER 22

Windows 7 is here at last! This landmark release from Microsoft is one of THE BEST operating systems we have ever seen from Microsoft. We started running this software in August when Gold Partners gained access to it and we have nothing but good things to say. What's so good about it? EVERYTHING! There were good things about Vista but also there were some issues especially with performance. Windows 7 has fixed all of these issues. Carnes Group has been fully deployed on Windows 7 for two months and we haven't looked back. We used all of our current hardware and did not need any replacements or other additions, it all worked on Windows 7.

Upgrading to Windows 7 is accomplished in several ways. Unfortunately, if you are using Windows XP or previous operating systems (OS), you can not do in-place upgrades, you have to start from scratch (actually, we always recommend upgrading from scratch for any OS upgrade). If you have Vista already, you need to update to Service Pack 1 or 2 and then you have several choices depending on your current version of Vista. However, you cannot upgrade from a previous 32-bit version of Vista to a 64-bit version of Windows 7, or from a 64-bit version of Vista to a 32-bit version of Windows 7. Here are your options:

#### Supported Upgrades from Windows Vista (SP1, SP2) Upgrade to Windows 7

Vista Business	Windows 7 Professional, Enterprise, Ultimate
Vista Enterprise	Windows 7 Enterprise
Vista Home Basic	Windows 7 Home Basic, Home Premium, Ultimate
Vista Home Premium	Windows 7 Home Premium, Ultimate
Vista Ultimate	Windows 7 Ultimate

Businesses should use Windows 7 Professional (similar to Vista Business). Windows Ultimate will also work although it is intended for home users and the extra features are not typically needed for businesses. Windows 7 Enterprise is the best version for businesses and is available through Volume Licensing or Software Assurance. Windows 7 Home versions will NOT work on corporate networks and cannot participate in a server domain - leave those at home.

For the Carnes Group migration, we decided to do total reinstalls. We ordered a couple of extra laptop hard drives and installed Windows 7 Enterprise. All of our hardware was immediately recognized, which was a huge and much appreciated surprise. We did do an in-place upgrade on an extra laptop from Vista SP1 Ultimate to Windows 7 Ultimate as a test and it seemed to work OK. Whenever possible, we still believe a total reinstall is the best migration scenario.

Windows 7 comes with a huge amount of drivers and uses the Vista drivers as well. One of the most interesting features we saw pertained to printer drivers. We still love our aging HP LaserJet 4000/4050/4100 series of B/W laser printers. When we went to install them on Windows 7, we didn't see them listed - but we did see a button next to the list of drivers that said "Windows Update". Hmm. Being technology guys, we clicked the button and a TON of printer drivers were downloaded for us. There were all our HP printer drivers we needed. That saved a lot of time.

What should you do? Beginning NOW, order any new PC's with Windows 7 Professional. You will need some hands-on training and you might need additional printer drivers installed on your server. Try to give upgrades to staff who have been using Vista at home. Make them your first new Windows 7 users and they can help their co-workers. Give us a call and we'll help you get started.

**NEXT MONTH:** Windows 2008 R2 Server and Virtualization; SBS 2003 migration options and why you should be making plans NOW; the new Carnes Group infrastructure based on Windows 2008 R2 and Hyper-V Virtualization and how we reduced our number of physical servers using Windows 2008 Hyper-V.

## Carnes Group Information

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