



BUG-BYTES

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WINDOWS 7 IS COMING WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Windows 7 is the successor operating system after Windows Vista. It is anticipated that it will be released on October 22.

WHY IS IT IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO UPGRADE TO A NEWER OPERATING SYSTEM?

- 1 SUPPORT FOR YOUR OLD OPERATING SYSTEM HAS EXPIRED. Thus, your computer will not be secure and you won't get the latest fixes, patches, and improvements. The price you pay for your operating system includes maintenance for about three years, sometimes longer.
- 2 YOU ARE PURCHASING A NEW COMPUTER. It makes sense to include the latest OS with your purchase to support all of the latest features and benefits and to provide support in the future.
- 3 YOU WANT TO ADD NEW PERIPHERALS OR CAPABILITIES TO YOUR COMPUTER THAT DID NOT EXIST WHEN YOUR OLD OPERATING SYSTEM WAS RELEASED. For example burning Blue Ray disks.
- 4 YOU WANT TO BENEFIT FROM THE TIGHTER SECURITY AND NEW FEATURES OF THE LATEST OPERATING SYSTEM.
- 5 YOU WANT THE LATEST DRIVERS FOR YOUR HARDWARE, drivers for new hardware that did not exist when you bought your previous OS.
- 6 YOU WANT MANY MORE YEARS OF OPERATING SYSTEM SUPPORT with fixes, patches, and security releases as they occur with the new operating system that you will have learned.
- 7 YOU WANT TO PROFIT FROM THE NEW AND ENHANCED FEATURES, BETTER HARDWARE SUPPORT, AND IMPROVED DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS. For example, you want simpler home networking.

SO WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT IN WINDOWS 7?

It is reported by beta testers that Windows 7 will load much faster than previous operating systems. Instead of including everything but the kitchen sink, the OS will be released with a very small footprint. That is it is pared down and you only add capabilities to it if and when you need and want them.

For instance, if you want parental control, fax support, mail client, video and picture editing, or any other special capability, you download and add those modules free of charge from Microsoft. They won't be loaded as part of the initial installation of the OS. Thus, for example, if you prefer Thunderbird™ rather than Outlook Express, you are not forced to include OE if you don't foresee using it. Install only what you need and want for a lighter and faster operating system.



Thus, the OS will be lighter and faster because it will only include the capabilities that you want to use on an everyday basis. It is a stripped down version based upon the proven Vista code base.

Windows 7 will be based upon some of the better and proven features of Vista including the Vista kernel.

One of the biggest complaints with Vista is a security feature called *User Account Control*, or UAC for short. It provides much better security than XP. However, the problem in Vista is that UAC produces a high number of security notification messages that require the user to confirm actions that are about to take place.

In Windows 7, users can select the level of notification with which they are comfortable. Windows 7 includes a slider with four distinct levels. The bottom line is that there will be far fewer confirmation requests. For example, Windows 7 will not ask for confirmation of events requested by the user. That alone will automatically dramatically reduce confirmation requests.

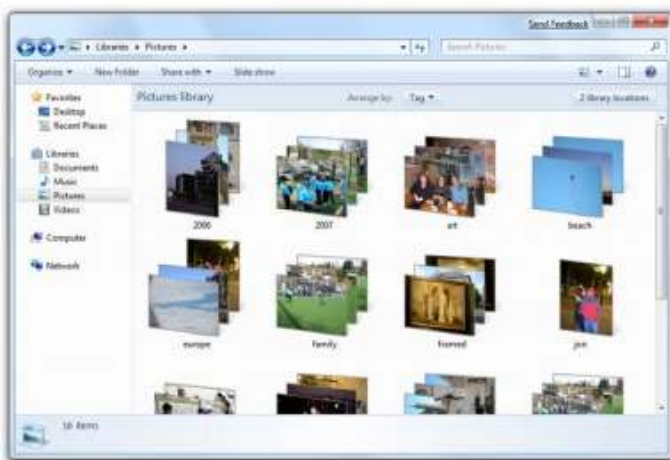
It is reported that Windows 7 will have much more device support on release than did Vista. Also, there will be a new Devices and Printers folder along with a

device stage page for each device. This will simplify making changes, and it will be easier to see the capabilities that are available for each device.

There will be **simpler home networking**. If you select the *home option*, you can setup file and printer sharing with just a couple of simple steps.

Windows Explorer will include a **new feature called libraries**. As I understand it, you can share library folders with multiple PCs that aggregate data based upon the file extension of the files on different networked computers or across partitions and multiple hard disks.

That is, you can view a photo library with photo files located in different folders on your computer and those of connected PCs. This should be a very useful new feature. You can drag folders into the library that you want to add to what is displayed, or remove folders that you want to exclude from that libraries view.

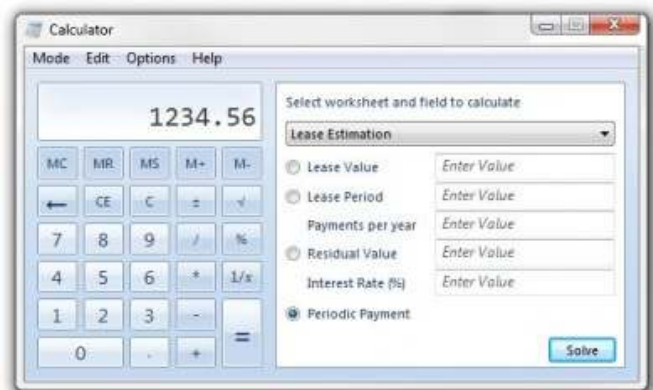


Windows 7 will offer improved navigation, and a streamlined user interface (UI).

NEW FEATURES

According to Wikipedia, Windows 7 will include the following new features: A new taskbar, advancements in touch screen (touch gestures), speech and handwriting recognition, support for virtual hard disks, support for solid state hard disks, support for additional file formats, improved performance on multi-core processors, improved boot performance, kernel improvements, and a 'jump list'.

Windows 7 will include an improved calculator. For example, the screen shot at the top right shows one of the new calculator's financial functions-lease estimation.



Windows 7 does away with Vista's Sidebar. You can still use gadgets, but you can place them wherever you want them on your desktop. I would not put my gadgets in the middle of my desktop as shown in the screen shot below. But the point is that you can drag them to any spot on your desktop and in any order you want them.



Windows 7 includes a new desktop hotkey in the lower right corner of your desktop. Click on it and it displays your desktop while temporarily hiding all of your open programs. It looks like this:



Windows 7 will offer direct cell phone support. From Win 7 's dialog you can setup synching, set the phones ring tone, use your computer to view the files and folder stored on your cell phone, copy pictures and videos, manage your music, and change your device settings. The expected dialog box is shown below.



CHANGE THE LOOK OF OE

VIEW YOUR EMAIL IN NEW, AND MAYBE, BETTER WAYS

If you have never explored the View options for Outlook Express (OE) you may have been missing something good.

See what I mean. Open OE. Click on View, and then on Columns. This option lets you pick from many display options.

OE's column options control which columns show up in your email, and in what order. You can even control the width of the columns.

You may be surprised at the things you can do with the View Option.



SOFTWARE REVIEW: ROBOFORM



If, like me, you received a notice saying that your credit card is one

of millions that was potentially compromised, and your credit card provider is issuing you a new credit card. Do you panic? Will you say, "Holy smokes. I will have to update umpteen web sites where I have stored my credit card data." Never fear. If you own RoboForm, the password manager, you can quickly update your credit card and other stored online information.

Storage of login and personal data is the whole reason to be for *RoboForm*. That, and the convenience of the program entering and filling in the correct data for you automatically are reasons for buying *RoboForm*.

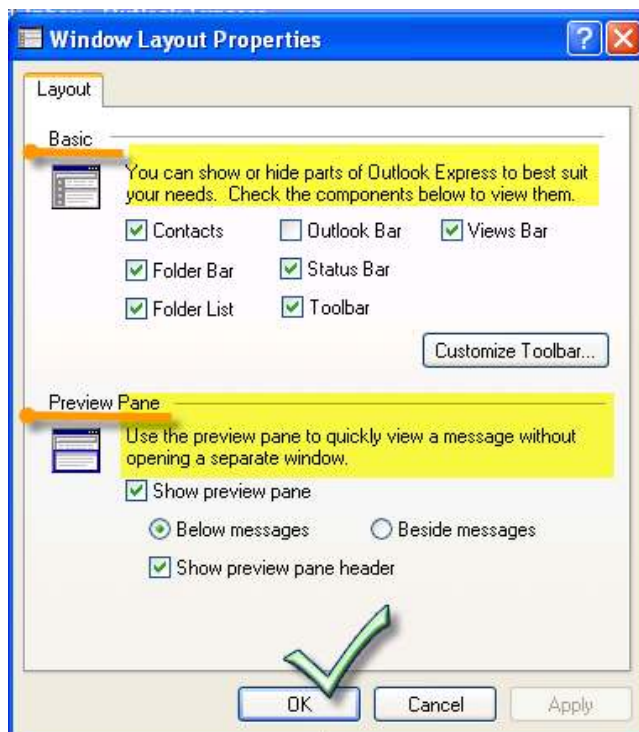
The next interesting option is the layout option under View, Layout.

Drag the dialog box down with your mouse so you can see how changes affect what you see at the top. Then experiment by un-checking or checking some of the boxes. For example, if you check the View box it adds a line so you can select how your email shows up, such as all messages, or only unread messages. Note that option takes up some screen real estate. Instead, if you want to temporarily change how you read your email, you can click on View, Current view, and then pick how you want to view your email.

The point is that you can do email your way. It may not be how someone else prefers to see their mail, but if it works for you, that is what is important.

You may have to look carefully to see what changes. For example, the folder list option adds an icon up at the top of your email. You click on it to toggle off or on the folder listing at the left of your screen in OE.

See the screen shot below.



Also experiment with the Preview Pane option to find what works best for you when you look at your email.

Aren't you glad you gave these tips a try?

REVIEW OF INTERNET EXPLORER 8

IT OFFERS INCREASED SECURITY AND NEW FEATURES

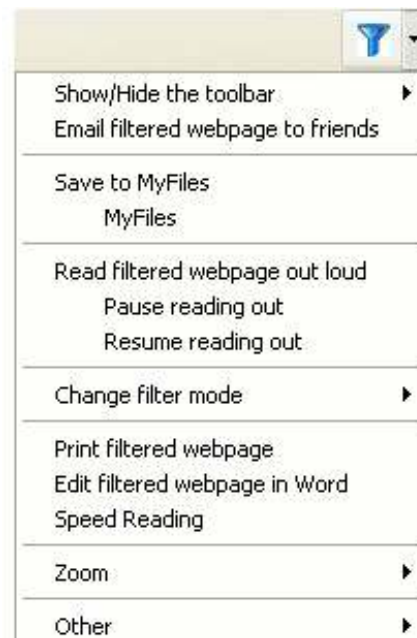
I believe Internet Explorer users will be pleased with the latest incarnation of Internet Explorer. It offers new ways to make the browser more secure, and offers some interesting new features. If you are happy with an alternative browser, then I doubt you will switch to IE 8, but then again you just might do that.

Are there times when you would like to see just the plain text for an interesting article without all the glitzy boxes and other distracting items on a page? Well, in IE 8 you can do just that. How about seeing just plain text for your home webpage with links? Yes, you can do that as well, and you can even print the results.

IE 8 let's you choose from a broad menu of add-ons. One interesting add-on is *Read on the web*, or *CleanPage*.

The next screen shot show what you see once you download, subscribe to, and then use the add-on feature to view the pages of your choice. Notice the menu of options. One interesting option is to read the web page out loud. You can send the filtered webpage to a friend with just plain text. You can even edit the text in Word.

Are you a speed reader? You have that option as well.





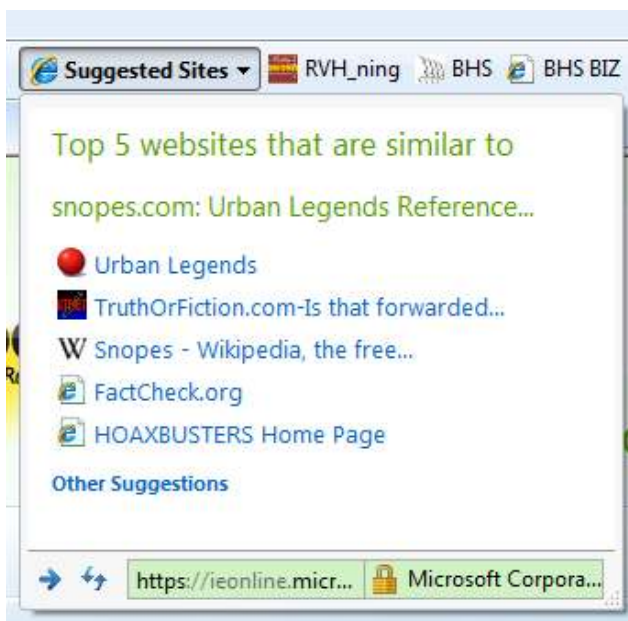
New IE 8 Buttons

EXPLORE THE ADD-ONS GALLERY

Right-click on the button that says Get More Add-Ons. Click on the category of your choice and explore with is offered. Choose as many or as few options as you want.



SELECT THE SUGGESTED SITES BUTTON



Select the IE 8 Suggested Sites Button. Right Click on it to subscribe (activate the button). Then click on a favorite site to see what other sites are suggested that are similar to your favorite site or sites.

HOW TO HANDLE TOUGH UNINSTALLS
SOME PROGRAMS DON'T WANT TO UNINSTALL

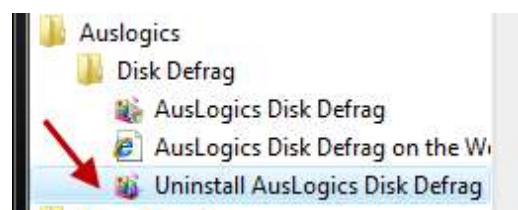
Well-informed Computerbugs members know that the proper way to uninstall their programs is through their application's uninstaller, Windows XP *Add or Remove Programs* application in the Control Panel, from Vista's Programs and Features, or by using a third-party uninstaller. However, sometimes the application you want to remove doesn't show up in the Control Panel application at all. Why is that so?

One of the following reasons may account for your program's missing in action status:

- 0. You made the common mistake of deleting the program's directory or some of its folders instead of using the Windows remove application or another proper uninstaller.
- 0. The program did not completely install (iTunes, McAfee, Microsoft Zune, Live Messenger, and Adobe Reader).
- 0. The software vendor incorrectly handled registering the program.
- 0. Some programs do not install correctly if your internet security program is turned on during installation.
- 0. The installed program by-passed the Windows Installer and registry.
- 0. The software vendor combined the uninstall program for their application with the folder that contains all of the temporary installation files (AVG). Normally, you can delete the installation folder after the install completes.

HOW TO UNINSTALL STUBBORN PROGRAMS

First, try uninstalling the program using the uninstaller that may come with your program. Click on Start, Programs, and expand the entry for the program you want to remove



by clicking on it, and perhaps on the next submenu item.

HERE IS SIMPLE TRICK

Try reinstalling the program that you want to uninstall and then uninstall it using the free program *Revo Uninstaller*. It may provide more information that you can find in the Windows Add or Remove Programs application. Click on

www.revouninstaller.com/revo_uninstaller_free_download.html.

Revo Uninstaller also includes tools to help cleanup your computer. For instance, one tool identifies which programs are loading at startup (autostartup tool) and one tool finds temporary installation files that other removers miss.

Reinstalling a stubborn program often works. The reinstallation fixes the registry and the icon then shows up as it should in the Add or Remove Program application in the Control panel. If this works for you, great. If not, continue on.

Sometimes, something confuses the installation program and the install is incomplete. This leaves bits and pieces of the program on your hard drive and confuses the installer. As a result you see error messages when you attempt to open the program saying the install was incomplete.

MICROSOFT INSTALL CLEANUP UTILITY

Download Microsoft's Install Cleanup Utility and run it if you are having a problem with the Windows Installer installing a particular program..

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/290301>.

Use the cleanup program to cleanup the remaining parts of an incomplete install. However, **Microsoft recommends that you not use the tool with their 2007 Office products.**

FOR COMPUTER CONSULTANTS ONLY

Sometimes the only way to remove all traces of a botched installation, or to remove lingering pieces of an incomplete uninstallation is by editing the registry, or by using a free tool such as Agent Ransack to locate all of the folders with the stubborn program's name.

* Warning *

Note: Editing the registry is a last resort and should only be attempted by very knowledgeable users. Even then, it is advisable to backup the registry so it can be recovered if something goes wrong. If the registry is damaged the user maybe be unable to get their computer to start.



Thanks to Phil Hicks for suggesting the uninstall topic!