

Intelligent Technical Solutions

Innovations

Did You Know

- October is the most common birth month along with July
- October 1st, 1903 was the first World Series Baseball Game
- The first "Model T"
 Ford was introduced
 by Henry Ford on the
 1st of October, 1908
- O "Twilight Zone" premiered, October 2nd, 1959
- O Chubby Checker born Ernest Evans on October 3rd, 1941
- O National Boss's Day is October 16th
- O Xerox introduced the first copy machine, October 22nd, 1938

Windows Vista — just a little sweeter

Breaking through the silence, Microsoft finally announced their plans to have Vista Service Pack 1 available in the first quarter of 2008.

Just last month, Microsoft began beta testing on Service Pack 1 (SP1) to correct known bugs, problems, and even spruce up a few features for Vista. They have a small group of testers working with the "beta preview" version but hope to use a group of about 10,000 pre-selected testers to work out all the bugs.

When Microsoft first developed Vista they focused on a system that would provide higher levels of productivity, security, and mobility but with lower costs.

The initial release seemed plagued with problematic compatibility issues falling short of expectations. Today, we see an increase in compatible programs, new software developed just for Vista users, and with the first Service Pack, answers to mysterious glitches.

Get the Facts! The web is chalked full of interesting speculation regarding Vista's first Service Pack. Jon DeVaan, Microsoft's Senior Vice President of Core Operating System, set the record straight in his press release addressing the contents of SP1 and availability.

"In addition to updates we've previously released, SP1 will contain changes focused on addressing specific reliability and performance issues we've identified via customer feedback..."



Remember SP1 is not filled with new features but it will enhance functionality for a few existing components and include device driver improvements.

John is excited about delivering the Service Pack in the first quarter of 2008. However, he stressed Microsoft's goals in the following statement,

"...we're first and foremost focused on delivering a high-quality release, so we'll determine the exact release date of SP1 after we have reached that quality bar."

Many organizations have hesitated to purchase Windows Vista due to compatibility and functionality concerns of such a new operating system. Not to mention the cost, time and training that goes into deploying Vista.

Now you can rest easy with the most advanced operating system on today's market knowing you have the support you need when you need it.

Why hold off on deploying Vista?

Microsoft offers support to all those who are willing to evaluate and deploy Windows Vista. In a

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INTELLIGENT TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

MySpace Hosting 29,000 Sex Offenders

With school back in session, thousands of kids will be surfing the Internet to conduct research, complete homework assignments, and connect with their new school mates

While chatting online with your friends about the latest school gossip or teenage crush seems innocent enough, the fact of the matter is that the Internet can expose a child to inappropriate material and unscrupu-

lous individuals who are looking for any opportunity to exploit innocent children.

The Statistics of Online Abuse Towards Children Are Alarming

According to a survey conducted by NetAlert, nearly one child in every five has been approached online by a stranger, and forty-five percent (45%) have been exposed to material that is pornographic,

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business environment. They recommend trying the new system just a few computers to ensure your hardware and applications are Vista compatible.

Don't know which ones to choose?

Don't worry. That is what we are here for. Give Intelligent Technical Solutions a call and we will come to you! Your onsite visit will include and evaluation of your computers to determine which computers are ready for Vista, assistance with ordering necessary hardware and developing a deployment plan.

If you would like to get started on your own you use Microsoft's Application Compatibility Toolkit 5.0 and the Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor at Microsoft.com. These programs can also assist you in determining if your ready to upgrade your systems to Vista.

Know your limitations. Have you ever gone to a Best Buy store or surfed the web looking for something specific for your computer? If so, you have undoubtedly come across that disappointing section on the product label that says, "system requirements".

No matter what you look up online or pick up in the store, the first thing you always see is for a Mac or requires more memory than what you have available on your computer. Check into your systems limitations. Find out what type of memory you have on each of the PCs you want to upgrade to Vista. In order to run this new operating system you need:

- O 1-gigahertz (GHz) 32-bit (x86) processor or 1-GHz 64-bit (x64) processor
- O 1 GB of system memory, most standard computers run with only half this size.
- O Windows Aero-capable graphics card
- o 128 MB of graphics memory (minimum)
- 40-GB hard disk that has 15 GB of free hard disk space.
- Internal or external DVD drive
- Internet access capability
- Audio output capability

What? I know it seems like a lot of stuff. The good news is, you probably have over half of the items on this list. Anything you don't have, we can order and install to prepare your computers for the change or advise you on a new type of computer to purchase that will best suite your business needs.

Don't be intimidated by Vista, we can approach this monster together. So, put down your candy corn and call us today for your computer evaluation appointment.

Don't let your funding go up in smoke!

Take a step back and evaluate where the excess end of the year funds are needed most. Some organizations just blow the extra money on junk in order to preserve their budget for the coming year. This year, take time to make a plan and spend wisely.

Upgrades and other improvements with new technology may be a great way to give your company a boost. More memory, faster processors or even new software may be the additions you need to increase efficiency and ease frustrations.

Let's face it! More memory, an upgrade to Windows Vista, an all-in-one printer or that new server you have been wanting to purchase could enhance the quality of your services and motivate employees. Don't let your funding fizzle out at the end of the year. Create a spending plan and invest this years left over money in the future of your organization.



"You have it so easy. When I was your age, we didn't have spell checkers."



MySpace Hosting 29,000 Sex Offenders...

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sexually explicit, violent, racist, or that encourages them to participate in dangerous or illegal activities.

One of the Biggest Threats are Social Networking Sites Like MySpace.com

A few months ago, North Carolina's Attorney General Roy Cooper reported that over 29,000 registered sex offenders are using MySpace.com to look for underage victims based on the web site's own estimates. That number was four times greater than the company's previous reports. Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal estimated in May that at least 5,000 sex offenders were registered for MySpace using false identities.

Blumenthal and Cooper have been the most active attorney generals in linking MySpace and sexual predation.

Horrifying True Stories Prove This is Not an Urban Legend

What's even more alarming are the true-life horror stories of missing or victimized kids who met their predator online.

In New Jersey, Majalie Cajuste is grieving the murder of her 14-year old daughter Judy who met a man in his 20s through MySpace.com.

In California, friends are mourning 15-year-old Kayla Reed who was active on MySpace until the day she was found murdered.

The Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported more than 2,600 incidents last year of adults using the Internet to entice children. That is why North Carolina's Attorney General is proposing stronger legislation to ban registered sex offenders from using social networking sites and strengthening other anti-child pornography and criminal penalties for Internet solicitation of minors and children for sex

Last year, North Carolina's State Bureau of Investigation arrested a police officer for the alleged rape of a 14-year-old girl he lured using MySpace, Cooper's office said.

But MySpace Isn't The Only Threat

According to Highlights of the Youth Internet Safety Survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, one in five children received unwanted sexual solicitations online. There are a growing number of pedophiles using the Internet to gain a child's confidence and arrange face-to-face meetings.

These cyber criminals trap children by using spam e-mails, online messaging, children's chat rooms, and misleading domain names. If your child is using the Internet, you must take measures to educate and protect them from these dangers.

As part of our back-to-school newsletter edition, I've outlined 3 things you should be doing now to keep your kids safe online.

3 Things You Can Do Right Now To Protect Your Children Online

- 1. Install web and e-mail filtering software to prevent your children from viewing inappropriate material. We recommend using www.bsafeonline.com. Not only will this prevent your children from visiting inappropriate web sites, but it will also stop inappropriate spam.
- 2. Talk to your kids about online safety and proper Internet usage. Set limits and guidelines about when they can go online, what they can do, and how long they are allowed to be online. Explain why it is dangerous for them to "chat" with strangers online or download suspicious looking files.
- 3. Give your children specific online guidelines or rules to follow when using the Internet. It's not enough to warn them about potential risks; pedophiles know how to cloak their identity and gain a child's confidence to arrange face-to-face meetings.

Require Your Kids To Follow These Rules Online:

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work addresses, or our e-mail address to anyone online.
- I will tell my parents right away if I see a web site, e-mail, or message that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will never send my picture to anyone online or upload my picture to any web site without my parent's knowledge and permission.
- I will never agree to meet someone face-to-face whom I met online without my parents' knowledge and permission.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or that make me feel uncomfortable in any way. If I get a message like that, I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service.
- I will never give my parents' financial information to anyone, especially their credit card information, bank account information, or social security number.

If you want more information on how to keep your children safe online or to report illegal, violent, or explicit acts towards children, go to www.cybertipline.com.

This site is run by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and is a great resource for parents, teachers, and guardians.









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Inquiring Minds...

Can you hear the Mosquito?

Originally marketed as an ultrasonic device to repel teens loitering near store fronts, the Mosquito buzzer has now evolved into a ring tone.

The Mosquito tone is an ultra high frequency at 17 kilohertz developed for store owners to discourage youth gatherings without disturbing adult guests. Generally, adults over age 25 cannot hear such tones due to natural gradual hearing deterioration.

A few techie students turned the tables on the ingenious developers of this buzzer and evolved the Mosquito into a ring tone. The ring tone is now becoming a hot item for students in schools across the globe. It is available on the internet for free and great for students to use in class so their cell phone does not disturb their instructors.

Unfortunately, a lack in hearing deterioration is the most common sensory abnormality in the world, meaning some adults can still hear it. Test yourself and download free ultrasonic ring tones at www.ultrasonic-ringtones.com.

A stress relief break

Face it. There are times when your work almost makes you dizzy with stress. When it happens, try these ways to get calm and refocused.

- Stop and do nothing for five or ten minutes. Sit quietly and listen to the sounds. This slows heart rate and reduces blood pressure, two of the effects of stress. At the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine they say: Remember that the only thing you can control is the present moment.
- O Get background music. In an Australian study, two groups were working on a presentation. Those who worked in silence had increases in blood pressure and heart rates. Those who

- worked to a calm musical background had steady readings and reported feeling much less stress.
- O Laugh at something. Laughter is not only one of the most effective stress busters, it also helps your immune system. Even anticipating something humorous will lower your stress level.
- O Take a walk. Taking a five- or ten-minute walk has a very calming effect, much better than a cup of coffee and a roll, say psychologists at Stanford University School of Medicine.
- Practice belly breaths. For several minutes, practice slow, deep belly breaths. They make you stretch your shoulders and loosen the right muscles. Take belly breaths every hour when doing stressful work.

Treat yourself to a little piece of mind

Do you ever feel like the error messages on your computer are simply no help at all? Give us a call...we can help! Our technicians can answer your questions and help you prevent further damage to your systems.

Our staff is available to translate your computer garble into a sensible plan of action. We will walk you through a system evaluation and repair options. Work with you to order the products you need and set up an appointment for services.

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