



Moving to Win 7



Considerations



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Major Factors



1. Definitions: Upgrade vs Custom Install
2. System Hardware (CPU, Memory, etc.)
3. Current Operating System
4. Program Software
5. Data on the C: Drive
6. Peripheral Equipment (printers, scanners, etc.)



Definitions (Microsoft)



An Upgrade Installation replaces the current OS with Windows 7 and your files, settings and programs are kept in place.

A Custom (Clean) Installation replaces the current OS with Windows 7 but **does not preserve** your files, settings and programs. *

Definitions

Note 1*



Microsoft's instructions are a bit misleading as you can do a Custom (Clean) Install without the loss of your Data. Programs and settings will be lost but not data. The Windows folder (where your old Op.Sys. Programs, settings and files are) is renamed to Windows.old and a new Windows folder containing Windows 7 is created. All other folders remain as before. The Windows Easy Transfer program (Downloadable from Microsoft) will restore most of your settings.

More on Windows Easy Transfer later.

Definitions

Note 2*



Formatting your hard disk (C:) during Windows 7 Custom (Clean) installation **isn't necessary**. If you want to reformat your hard disk you can do so but it is not required. If you choose to reformat, be sure to backup all your data to an external drive before beginning the "Upgrade".

It is a good idea to backup your C: drive anyway

System Hardware



- CPU – 1Ghz P4 min. (Dual Core or X2 Recommended)
- Memory (RAM)
 - Win 7 32Bit Requires 1GB: 2GB Recommended
 - Win 7 64Bit Requires 2GB: 4GB+ Recommended
- Video Card – Verify with Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor
(Download pgm from Microsoft)
- Hard Drive Capacity (Storage) – at least
120 GB

Vista Operating System



- Vista 64 Bit will upgrade to Win 7 64 Bit
- Vista 32 Bit will upgrade to Win 7 32 Bit
- Vista 32 Bit will Custom Install to Win 7 64 Bit
- Check your hardware/software compatibility using Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor
 - <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/get/upgrade-advisor.aspx>
 - And the Gibson Research Utility
<http://www.grc.com/securable.htm>

Windows XP



- Win XP - you **may** be able to do a Custom Install Upgrade(depending on your hardware)
 - Check with Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor and Gibson Research Utility
 - Your machine may need more RAM
 - Your machine may need a better Video Card
 - Your machine may need a better CPU

Other OS (e.g. Win98, 2000)

Microsoft
Windows 98



Buy a New Machine With Windows 7

Program Software



- If you “Buy New”, all of your programs will have to be re-installed from original sources.
- For Win XP upgrades, all of your programs will have to be re-installed from original sources.
- For Vista your programs will continue to work if you stay with the same version (32bit or 64 bit).
 - If you upgrade from 32 bit to 64 Bit version you will have to re-install programs from original sources.
- Note: In nearly all cases 64 bit versions will run software designed for 32 bit.

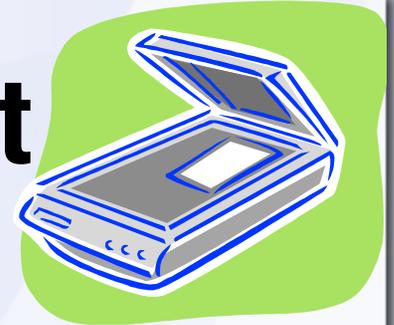
Data Issues



- For “Buy New” situations you will need to transfer your data to the new machine.
- For Win XP upgrades you should transfer data to external source and be prepared to reload it into Windows 7.
- For Vista upgrades all of your data will remain intact if you stay with same version (32 bit or 64 bit)



Peripheral Equipment



Many printers, scanners, etc, will require new drivers for Windows 7. Some may not be available.

Check the manufacturers website to see if updated drivers are available for your version of Windows 7 (32 bit or 64 bit).

Smaller Manufactures such as Palm, Brother, etc. won't develop drivers for all of their legacy equipment

Upgrade Summary

(Type of Upgrade you can do)

1. In Place upgrade:

- Vista 32 bit to Windows 7 32 bit
- Vista 64 bit to Windows 7 64 bit

2. Custom (Clean) Install

- Win XP to Windows 7 (32 bit or 64 bit)
- Vista 32 bit to Windows 7 64 bit

Data Transfer

Windows Easy Transfer

Program is included in Windows Vista

Program can be downloaded for Win XP

Windows Easy Transfer saves the following:

User accounts

Files and folders

Program data files and settings

E-mail messages, settings, and contacts

Photos, music, and videos

Windows settings

Internet settings



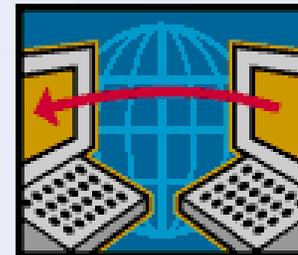
Windows Easy Transfer



Easy transfer will:

Transfer data to external hard drive and reinstall on upgraded system or new machine.

Transfer data directly to new machine using a special data cable.



Windows 7 Email



Windows 7 does not include an email client,
i.e. Outlook Express or Windows Mail

You can download Windows Live Mail for free
and it replaces the two legacy products
listed above

Windows Live Mail is easy to set up and is
quite user friendly. You will like it.



Why Do It?



Windows 7 boots and runs faster than Vista

Windows 7 is solid, i.e. no more blue screens

It's easy to operate. You won't need any special training to run the system.

Easier networking (Homegroup)

Better Document Organization (Libraries)



Why Skip It?

(For now)



Current System is working for you.

Windows 7 is expensive.

Win 7 Drivers are not available for your printer, scanner, etc.

Your PC does not have adequate hardware (CPU, RAM, Video, etc.) to support Win 7 and it would cost a lot to update it.

Your programs are not supported in Win 7.