

What's New in Windows Vista

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Hi,

Nothing can be more fun or frustrating than computers. I hear a lot of complaints rumors and complaints about Vista, but I think it is awesome. My hopes in teaching this class is that you will find Vista as exciting as I have. If you have questions that I can help you with after my presentation, please email me at Kathy.Himle@slcc.edu and I will try to be of assistance to you.

Kathy

What's in the Box?

(See what version you need by comparison)

Comparison of Selected Features in Windows Vista Versions					
	Home Basic	Home Premium	Business	Enterprise	Ultimate
Supports Aero user interface		●	●	●	●
Windows Anytime Upgrade	●	●	●		
Remote Desktop	● client only	● client only	● host & client	● host & client	● host & client
Parental Controls	●	●			●
Media Center functionality		●			●
Windows DVD Maker		●			●
Tablet PC functionality		●	●	●	●
Scheduled user data backup		●	●	●	●
Fax and Scan			●	●	●
Wireless network provisioning			●	●	●
Windows Shadow Copy			●	●	●
System image-based backup and recovery			●	●	●
Policy-based QoS for networking			●	●	●

Rights Management Services	●	●	●
Policy-based device driver control	●	●	●
Network access protection	●	●	●
Integrated smart card management	●	●	●
Domain join for Windows Server	●	●	●
Group Policy Support	●	●	●
Off-line files and folders	●	●	●
Roaming user profiles	●	●	●
Internet Information Server	●	●	●
Support for two CPU sockets	●	●	●
Virtual PC Express		●	●
BitLocker drive encryption		●	●

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9000829&pageNumber=12>

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Which version is right for you? <http://comp-tipsandtricks.blogspot.com/2007/05/how-to-choose-right-windows-vista.html>

Vista's User Accounts

There are two main types of accounts in Windows Vista, the standard user account and the administrator account.

- **Standard users** can run programs, print, open and save files and other normal computing tasks.
- **Administrator Accounts** can do everything a standard user can do, but can also change settings, install software, and other things that affect other users on the computer.

If you try to install software (change system settings, etc.) when logged in as a standard user, you will be required to enter the administrator name and password to proceed. An Administrator will be asked if they want to continue, to alert and prevent the installation of malware or virus software.

Although it is possible to turn this off in the control panel, under user accounts, this feature is a protection to you in preventing unwanted programs and scripts from running without your permission.

More on User Account Settings: <http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/windows/en-us/search.aspx?&qu=uac>

How to turn it off: <http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/Windows/en-US/Help/58b3b879-924d-4e08-9358-c316055d3eae1033.mspx>

ReadyBoost

You can increase the performance of your Vista machine with a new program called ReadyBoost. This uses spare space on your USB device for caching information to the USB Flash Drive, and is generally faster than writing to a swap file. Here are a few facts:

- Flash drive must be at least 256MB, but 2GB or larger is recommended.
- You must have at least 235MB free, so a flash drive that is full of data won't work.
- ReadyBoost can only use up to 4 GB of flash memory, so anything larger won't be used.
- Your computer must have a USB 2.0 port, and the USB device must use FAST flash.
- It operates using cache memory, not virtual.

Basic Steps to start ReadyBoost:

1. Insert flash drive into a 2.0 USB port (don't skimp on size)
2. Find the flash drive in my computer under *Devices with Removable Storage*.
3. Right click on the flash drive and choose Properties.
4. Locate the ReadyBoost tab, and click Use this device
5. Slide the bar to the amount of space you wish to use for Flash memory.
6. Click the apply button.

More on ReadyBoost: <http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/windows/en-us/search.aspx?=&qu=ready+boost>

Snipping Tool

One of my favorite features in Vista is the Snipping Tool. This is found in Accessories. In the past, when I wanted a screen shot of an error message or something else on my screen, I had to hit the print screen button, and then paste it into another program, crop off the unnecessary stuff, etc. The snipping tool let me use my mouse to drag over just what I want. I can then use the drop down menu to save it, email it, or copy it, just to name a few. Try it, you'll like it!!

More on Snipping tool: <http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/windows/en-us/search.aspx?=&qu=snipping>



Instant Search

Another great improvement in Vista is in the ability to find programs quickly, without remembering whether they were in programs, accessories, control panel, etc. Just hit the Vista Start menu and start typing what you are looking for.

In addition, you will find a search in the upper right hand corner in my computer, my pictures, my documents and other areas where you would normally search. There's even one in Internet Explorer!

Windows Sidebar

Who doesn't love gadgets?! Choose from these fun little mini programs to add a clock, weather, calculator, mini-slide show, sticky notes, and more! My personal computer has 4 weather gadgets on my sidebar. I can instantly see the weather temperature at work, home, Boise Idaho and Anchorage Alaska. Having Alaska on there helps me feel better about the temperatures here in Utah (except in the summer)!

More on Sidebar: <http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/windows/en-us/search.aspx?=&qu=sidebar>



Parental Controls (not available in Business or Enterprise)

Your dreams just came true. With parental controls, you can create user accounts for your children and then determine how they will use the computer on a per user basis! But that's just the beginning; you can also access activity reports and see where they have been! You can:

- Specify time limits; when their time is up, Vista logs them out!
- Hours they can logon and this can be customized for every day of the week
- One click on the child's account in Control Panel enables Activity Reports so you can view your children's online activities. Just click **Activity Reporting**.
- Setup Web filters, control games by rating and content and allow and block specific programs on your computer.
- A supervisor password will override and allow the parent to access an otherwise blocked site.
- Content Advisor can also be used for setting Web Filters, but this applies to everyone who uses the machine.

Steps with screen captures: <http://www.protectiveparenting.com/web/html/modules.php?name=News&file=categories&op=newindex&catid=1>

Basic Steps to Starting Parental Control

1. Start → Control Panel → User Accounts
2. Create a standard user (giving it one of your children's names)
3. Turn Parental Controls on (this is also available in control panel or in instant search from the Start Menu)
 - Web Restrictions
 1. Choose restriction (high, medium, none or custom)
 2. Time Restrictions (Monday – Sunday select time)
 3. Game Restrictions (Early Childhood, Everyone, Everyone 10+, Teen, Mature or Adults Only)

More on Parental Controls: <http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/windows/en-us/search.aspx?=&qu=parental>+

Basic Steps to Content Advisor

1. Open Internet Explorer
2. Tools → Internet Options → Content (tab)
3. Under Content Advisor choose Enable
4. Adjust the slider bar to what you want user to see (remember this affects ALL users)

More on Content Advisor: <http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/windows/en-us/search.aspx?=&qu=content+advisor>

Windows Photo Gallery

If you love capturing memories with photo's, Vista is all over it! Vista allows you to organize and find your photo's in amazing ways. This program also has a search box in the upper right corner of the window, allowing you to search for tags which you have added to your picture(s). The best part of tags is that one picture can have multiple tags; for instance, I can tag a picture by the place, and by various people in the photo, allowing me to search and find a photo under 4 different names!

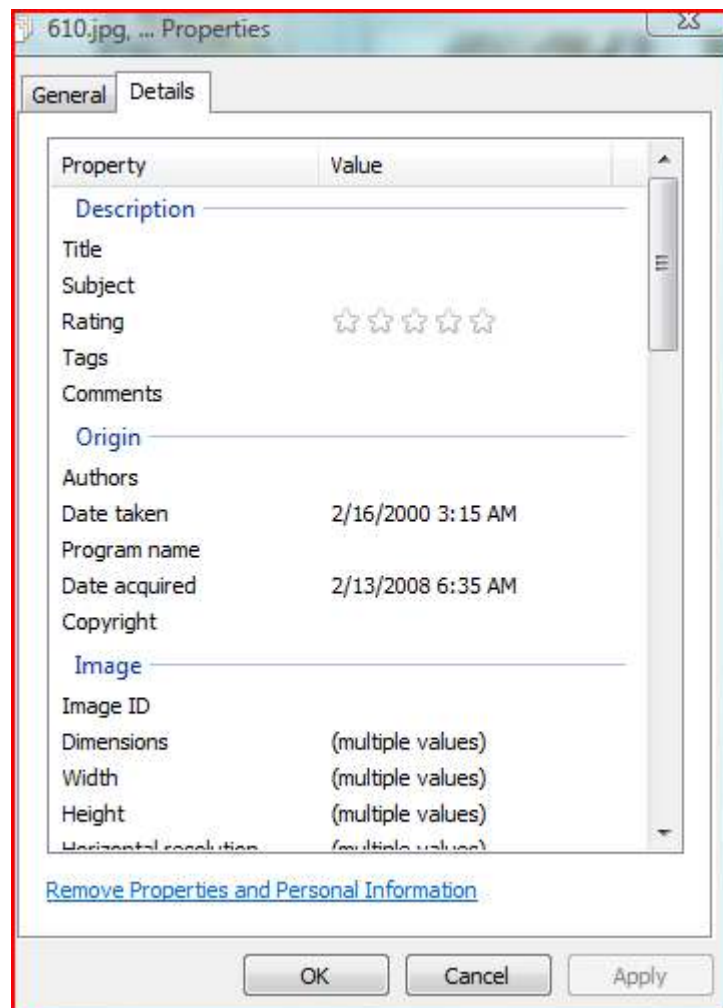
Rate your own photo's by assigning them a rating from 1 to 5 stars. Afterwards you can search for photos by clicking on the stars in Windows Photo Gallery.

Search by date taken, or recently imported... maybe you'd rather search by the camera name (Kodak, Canon). The possibilities are amazing!

More on Photo Gallery: <http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/windows/en-us/search.aspx?=&qu=photo+gallery>

Basic Steps for assigning Tags, and other labels and ratings:

1. Right click the photo you want to assign a tag to
2. Choose Properties, and the following window will appear:



3. Left click to the right of the description, and enter the information you wish.

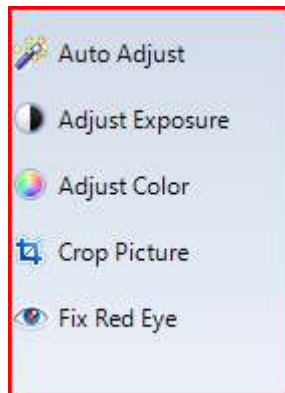
SORTING:

The following are ways that you can sort and find photos:

- Date Taken
- Date Modified
- File Size
- Image Size
- Rating
- Caption
- File name
- Ascending/Descending

Photo Editing

You can also edit your photo's in Windows Photo Gallery. The following menu appears under Fix:



Windows Media Center

Of course, I had to save the best for last. Windows Media Center is not Windows Media Player, but an amazing program that you will love! Windows Media Center allows you to put together a beautiful slide show of your photos and add music in a matter of seconds. If you own an Xbox 360 , you can stream music, photos and video to your your family room television for larger gatherings.

My daughter and her husband, keep their pre-schoolers occupied by using this setup. It seems they never get tired of watching themselves and remembering the camping trip, bike ride or water park memories. It keeps relatives who live at a distance, alive for the children and helps them remember.

Record Television:

For around \$100 you can buy a media center extender, and hook this to your cable or antennae and record television for later play back. This also allows you to skip through the commercials. More on how to skip commercials: http://www.missingremote.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1031&Itemid=1

You can watch a recorded or live show, while recording another! Adequate disk space on your computer is required, and it is possible to have more than one media center extender (allowing you to record more than one program simultaneously).

Adjust Settings in Windows Media Center:



Start

1. Begin typing **Windows Media Center**. Select it on the search results
2. Use the mouse or arrow keys to go to **Pictures and Videos** and left click to select it.
3. To choose slide show settings, **right** click **Play Slide Show**
4. Select **Settings** in the pop up window on the lower right.
5. Arrow down to Pictures and make selections from the following:
 - **Pictures**
 - a) Show pictures in random order

- b) Show pictures in sub folders
- c) Show caption
- **Show song information during the slide show**
 - a) At the beginning and end of song
 - b) Always
 - c) Never
- **Transition Type**
 - a) Animated
 - b) Cross Fade
 - c) None
- **Transition Time**
 - a) Choose the amount of time you want between slides in seconds
- **Slide Background Color**

Select Music in Windows Media Center:

1. Use the mouse or arrow keys to go to Music Library and select it.
2. Either select an album you wish to play, and choose play album, or choose from the songs listed and add individual songs to the queue. Once you add a song to the queue, it begins to play. You can continue to select songs from various artists to your queue.

Start Sideshow in Windows Media Center:

1. Use the mouse or arrow keys to go to Pictures and Videos
2. Choose Play Slide show on the folder you want to display. If you want to see all the pictures, choose Play Slide Show in the Pictures folder, rather than a sub folder.

Windows help and how to:

<http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/Windows/en-US/mediacenter/default.mspx>

<http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/windows/en-us/search.aspx?=&qu=media+center>