

Things I like about Windows 7

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Look and Feel

Much faster boot than Vista. (2-3 times faster)

Programs and files search. Start (Orb) Menu enhanced. Find application programs instantly.

Jump Lists – Think “recently used” segregated into related programs.

Multifunction task bar – All the old functions are there plus a replacement for some desktop icons. Icons can become time/progress bars as well as starting point for Area functions. Custom sizing.

Aero Peek – Lower right hand button shows desktop. Task bar icons have 3 levels of program previewing. This makes your over computer experience much faster and more intuitive.

Aero Snap – Side snap and top snap.

Aero Shake – Shake all of the other Windows away.

New Magnifier – old magnifier functions plus new virtual huge desktop.

General

Security screens are much less invasive and several options. See User Account Control in Action Center of Control Panel to set one of 4 levels from high security to no security.

Built in ISO burner for cd and dvd images.

Home Group simplified networking – All computers using the same network password can see each other.

Other – 64 bit support, Automatic backups, and about 50 other improvements.

Free Downloads from Microsoft – Anti-Virus (Security Essentials), Windows Live Essentials, Mail, Movie Maker, Photo Gallery, and others.

Behind the Scenes

Better speed than Vista, though not as fast as XP.

MSConfig Tools – new diagnostic utilities tab. This is a one-stop launch point for about 20 system utilities and status information screens.

Comment from Softpedia 10/2009: Compared to Vista, Windows 7 has less clutter, more clarity, a boost in performance, compatibility, stability, increased reliability, less RAM and hardware resource hunger.”

Devices and Printers Setup – This screen is very user friendly with links to device web sites.

Upgrades - No Direct upgrade from XP, but User State Migration Tool (USMT) eases migrating from XP and Vista. It also has some “clean install” options. Although possible, I don’t recommend upgrading from Vista because you will drag along clutter and instability from Vista.

Compatibility is generally better than Vista. Most old programs will work properly. For diehard programs that work only on XP, there is a feature called XP Mode that installs a 2nd virtual operating system (XP) that guarantees 100 percent compatibility. This mode has a clever but tricky integration that makes the program seem to be fully integrated with Windows 7 desktop and program menu.

Demonstration Computer

Windows 7 Home Premium

System Board (MicroATX) – Intel D945GCLF2 all-in-one with the following specs:

Intel Atom 330 Dual Core 1.6 GHz Processor w 2 Gigabytes of Ram.

Video – Intel Express chipset on-board with 256 Megabytes of Ram.

Technical Links

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/products/system-requirements>

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/help/upgrading-from-windows-vista-to-windows-7-custom>

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/compatibility/windows-7/en-us/default.aspx>

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/downloads/upgrade-advisor>

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/help/getting-started>

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/32-bit-and-64-bit-Windows-frequently-asked-questions>