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Foreword

Basically windows 7 is touted to be the new revolutionary application that is faster, easier to use and more flexible in providing the user with fun and fulfilling hours from its use. The windows 7, is an improvement of other windows applications with more powerful additions that create the overall better operating system for the user in general. Among the new additions would be Aero Peek, Aero Snap and Aero Shake. Get all the info you need here.



Don't Sweat With Windows 7

Easy ways to operate and use the latest windows OS

Chapter 1:

The basics of windows 7

Window 7 starter is an edition of windows 7 that contains the fewest features but is no less usable in comparison. Microsoft originally intended to restrict the edition to running just three different simultaneous applications but this limitation was eventually thought to be too restrictive.

The window 7 home basics is available in the emerging markets in all over the world and has the inclusion of some of the window aero options that come with several new features. There are geographical activation restrictions which require the user to activate the windows within a certain region or country.

A window 7 home premium contains features aimed at the home market user segment, which would be windows media center, windows aero and multi touch support.

Windows 7 professional is targeted towards the enthusiasts market and the smaller business users. It includes all the features of home premium with the added ability to participate in a windows server domain. Other features would include being able to operate the system from a remote desktop server, location aware printing and encrypting file system.

Windows 7 enterprise editions targets the enterprise segments of the market where the users acquire the system through volume licensing to companies, though it is usually not available through retail or OEM channels but is distributed through Microsoft Assurance. With this, the system allow the operating of diskless nodes, the running of multiple virtual machines and activation via VLK.



Chapter 2:

Discover the windows 7 mysteries

There are several improvements made to the windows 7 and it would be useful to understand these to clear the mysteries around the newer seemingly more effective system.

The following are some of the improvements noted, thus unraveling the mysteries of the window 7:

- It is purported to be a better desktop facility as it is able to get around the PC faster and more efficiently than before. The taskbar has a bigger button reach and full sized previews are readily available. Being able to pin programs to it with just one click access is another improvement and the jump list provides shortcuts to files, folders and websites. The Snap, Peek and Shake will give the user easy and fun access to new ways to juggle all the open sites.
- Smarter search – anything types into the start menu search box will now entails results instantly, grouped by category, the documents, pictures, music, emails and programs will now be much easier to view. There is also the platform available to fine tune any search with filters such as date or file type where the user will be able to peek at the contents.

- Build for speed, the windows 7 key is the heightened performance it is able to provide. The improvements ensure less space is taken up in the memory and run background services which are only used when needed. This way the programs are run at a faster pace and the system is able to “sleep” and resume and reconnect to wireless networks at a much quicker pace.
- Better wireless networking facilitating processes especially when connecting to the laptops where there used to be problems. Now the process can be achieved in just a few clicks.



Chapter 3:

Securing windows 7

Securing any applications is very important for those using the online tools for various purposes. Therefore it is in the interest of the user to ensure as many precautions are taken to ensure the security measure in place, are suitable and optimum.

The following are some of the steps that should be considered when addressing the securing exercise for the windows 7:

- Enable BitLocker – this can be used to encrypt any volume on the hard drive and also includes boot, system and even removable media such as USB keys. Vista preliminary problems can be managed quite well with this addition. With just a simply right click the user can encrypt any volume from within the windows explorer. As there are several protection methods in place the user would be well equipped to deal with processing security measures.
- Raise the UAC slide bar – the user account control has been significantly improves with the less intrusive and smarter ability that distinguishes between legitimate and potential malicious activities in the windows 7 applications. However this would depend on the logged on platform of the user which could either be as administrator or as a standard user, as some installations many have a default UAC security setting that is a level lower that others would recommend.

- Patch everything – this service will appropriately configure to download and install critical windows operating systems and Microsoft application files in a timely manner. Microsoft has been reputed to be amount the most patched software available to date. Therefore by simply installing the software, the programs can all be patched especially the user browser plug-ins.
- Install adequate anti-spam and anti-malware software – the biggest threat to a system is the Trojan horse which acts as a fake outlook parch, fake antivirus scanner and fake codec for all the attention grabbing information that might entice the user to open.



Chapter 4:

Working with programs and files

Some users may need to upgrade their current applications to the window 7 and this can be done easily if the user is able to understand the various steps involved.

Being aware of the right tools and applications available will help the user make informed decisions as to how to go about this task.

If the user intends to install windows 7 on top of Vista, the setup would require the program to leave the existing files and folders intact.

However backing up everything is still advised as a precautionary measure. If the user is moving form XP then the custom install will be enough and there would not be a need to back up any files or folders.

The windows 7 easy transfer tool will back up the date files but not the applications, therefore the user would have to have installation discs at hand so that the reinstallation process can be easily done.

However it should be noted that these new programs may render the old one useless and irretrievable, but there are other programs within the new windows7 that will help the user run these applications as best as possible.

Using the competitive mode as a tool within the windows 7 will help the user if there are problems with the older software.

If enable the user to run these programs using artificial environment applications. The competitive mode application will help to mimic the system setting it needs to run the programs successfully. However some caution should be exercised when running these programs.

When the windows 7 is up and running, there may be a select few programs that aren't performing as they should and the user would have two options to explore and these would be to click the net to try the recommended settings or to commence troubleshooting exercises.

Chapter 5:

Printing in windows 7

There are several step the user can follow if get the printing application to be successfully run within the windows 7 platform. However some problems may occur if the current printer being used is older and less compatible as compared to linking to one that is new.

The following are some of the steps that can be explored when trying to link the printing application within the windows 7 tool:

- There would be a need to use the windows update to check if the newer is compatible and to test the printer to see if the drive will support all the features on both sides. If there is no compatibility found, the user would have to visit the manufacturer's website and look for a download aid for the particular printer in use to be linked to the windows 7. A fresh installation process may need to be executed once this is found.
- Use vista drivers for aid if there is no specific support for windows 7 for the printer. This is only possible if there are vista drivers and compatible software to install. In some cases all it takes is to simply down load the Vista and the application is installed to be compatible with the system in use.
- Run in vista compatibility mode – the running of the installation programs done in compatibility mode has no real effect on how the driver works as there is no compatibility mode for drivers. If the installation programs installs other software

besides the driver, the compatibility mode may work in Windows 7.

- Install manually – you can also install the Vista printer driver manually. To do this you have to go to the Devices and Printers window, choose add a printer. When you get to printer options, Choose Have Disk and select the printer's INF file.



Chapter 6:

Understanding Control Panel

The control panel in any operating system is critical as it enables the user to do settings on how the computer will perform. It is a key application that helps in all types of different settings.

It allows users to view and edit system settings that manages the operating system. It helps in installing and uninstalling applications not found in Windows, settings for printers, audio sounds, font size, maintenance of computer, performance of computer and many more features to assist the user.

To access the control panel is made easy. Look for the Start button on the right hand side and click on it. The control panel window will open. You can either use classic view or standard view.

Later editions of Windows uses category, small icons or big icons. If you prefer to view on a larger scale then click on big icons. For small viewing click on small icons.

You will also be able to see which software was installed, when it was installed, installed in which location, what version was installed and other information regarding the software.

To customize your folders, click on the Folder Option icon. It lets you customize your folder settings like hide some of the folders which you

would not like others to see. You can set the program to open folders or files with a single click or double click.

You can change how your computer starts with the control panel. You can also set how your computer looks with the personalization button found in control panel.

This setting will affect the font size displayed as well as graphics and sound. You can use Windows background pictures or even one of your own personal photographs. You can also set the different tones for different actions performed by your computer.



Chapter 7:

Recover your windows from a crash

With any operating system, there will always be glitches in the system that causes it to crash after sometime if the cause is not resolved with updates. There are many reasons why the operating system crashes. One of the common causes is the installation of bad or incorrect driver installations.

The two main reasons why Windows operating system crashes are hardware and software. On the hardware side, any error occurring in the hard disk drive or memory (RAM) will cause Windows to not load. On the software side, any damages or changes made to system files can have the same effect on Windows.

Viruses are primary causes for software to malfunction. Change of computer motherboard as well as removing or changing hard drive configurations will also cause malfunction. Other symptoms where Windows does not load could also be attributed to a faulty motherboard or power supply.

To recover Windows after it crashes, you have to either use Windows Vista safe mode if you are using Vista or Windows XP safe mode if you are using XP.

There are three safe mode options in Vista. They are safe mode, safe mode with command prompt only and safe mode with networking.

The default option which is safe mode is the best where a minimal set of hardware drivers are loaded on boot up. This mode uses physical devices like hard drive, video card, mouse, CD ROM devices and keyboard. Then use system restore to revert your system to an earlier working state.

After this run an antivirus program like AVG, Avast or Norton. These programs will run best in safe mode and you should delete any viruses found. After completion of this exercise you have to run System File Checker which can examine and repair all your essential operating system files..

Chapter 8:

Computer networking in windows 7

With networking, you can share, surf the web, chat, make a conference call and others from practically anywhere.

For home users, Homegroup is the best way to stay connected on your home network to share printers, files, libraries with other people in your home.

For work, you need to connect to a domain which is a collection of computers on a network.

The top 10 Windows 7 networking features are:

Libraries – personal documents, personal downloads, personal photos, personal videos and personal music. These are folders created by the system. You also have public folders with the same names. Public folders can be viewed by everyone on the network while personal folders are exclusive to that one user.

Network and sharing center – this has been simplified in Windows 7

View available network – this feature allows you to view all available networks and connect to them directly.

Fast wake up and boot, smart network power, wake on LAN for wireless.

Branchcache – contents are cached on a remote branch to enable faster downloading the second time around. Access is much faster and easier.

Virtualization enhancements – when you run this feature, you will enjoy a higher quality experience. This new feature comprises of:

Windows Aero Interface

Viewing videos in Windows Media Player 11

Multiple monitors

Microphone

Easy print. Use a local printer without installing a printer driver.

Common tools to manipulate virtual desktop images.

Fix a network problem – this easy and simple feature will help you fix your network problem.

QoS enhancements – quality of service enhancements in Windows 7 is URL based QoS. This feature enables Admin to prioritize their mission critical web applications over general web surfing.

Direct Access – help mobile users get more done. Help Admin manage remote machines more effectively.

Homegroup – the best feature on Windows 7. Link computers on your home network together to share files and folders.

Chapter 9:

Entertainment with windows 7

With Windows 7 you can have a home network and share all your favorite videos, photos and music. You can also watch, pause, rewind and record TV both in 32-bit and 64-bit discs with Windows Media Center.

Windows 7 entertainment gives you new navigation features like Aero, Shake, Jump Lists and Snap for convenience. A better look and feel of Windows with new themes and Taskbar programs. Easier networking with printers and devices. Faster wake up from sleep with Fast Wake Up feature. 64-bit hardware and memory can be utilized. Easier and faster connection of wireless networks. Blu-ray read and write support for data files. Integration of Video and Dolby audio codecs. It also offers large screen support.

The Jump Lists enables launching of programs with one click. Managing of windows is also made easier by dragging them or arranging in patterns.

Wireless connections is made easy with consistent one click connections to available networks whether based on Wi-Fi, broadband, mobile, dial-up or corporate VPN.

Internet Explorer 8 helps you quickly find the information you want by adding cues and previews to search results from search providers like Live Search, Amazon, Yahoo, Bing and others.

Windows 7 comes packaged with Windows Live Photo Gallery, Windows Live Mail, Windows Live Family Safety. Share your photos with Photo Gallery. Manage multiple email accounts with Live Mail easily. Family Safety puts restrictions on your child's time and websites visited on the internet. Added protection for the family.

Watch shows for free with Windows Media Center and Internet TV. Graphics using DirectX 11 technology is used in Windows 7 giving the viewer realistic images and video. Send music, videos and photos to any networked device throughout your home. Access to any networked devices even when you are not at home with Remote Media Streaming.

Wrapping Up

Web browsing using Windows 7 has never been easier or faster. With the introduction of Internet Explorer 9 (IE9), Windows users have benefited tremendously. As of November 2011, IE9 usage share worldwide was higher than all versions of Chrome and Firefox, second only to IE8. Based on current trends, IE9 will soon take the top spot from IE8.

IE9 has also been recognized as the top browser for malware protection. That means it gives the best socially engineered malware protection currently available for any browser. IE9 also comes with Tracking Protection. This feature gave people more control of their privacy online while they browse the internet and can stop tracking from third parties.

To use emails on Windows 7 you have to download Windows Live Mail. This application is free. After downloading you will be able to import your email into it. To do this you can use the Import Mail Troubleshooter to import your accounts into Windows Live Mail. Windows Live Mail is a program with some great new ways to manage your email. With this program you can read and reply to your email even when you are offline. When you are online, any messages in your outbox will be sent.

Windows Live Mail also integrates all your chosen email accounts into one program so you can get all your emails in one computer. Your

calendars and contacts will also stay in sync between your PC and the internet.

Windows Live Mail also incorporates the use of Windows Live Skydrive. This program enables the storage of thumbnails of large image photos. You just send the thumbnails to your friends and they can click the thumbnails to get the high resolution photos. In this way their mailboxes will not be clogged.

