WHY NEW COMPUTERS COME WITH VISTA

1. XP is now two generations old. It is no longer viable for a consumer to purchase a new computer that does not have Vista (or Windows 7) installed. Microsoft drives the release and adoption cycles for new operating systems—not IT.

2. Microsoft has stated they are not going to patch all of the currently-existing security vulnerabilities of XP.

3. Microsoft will not fix known bugs in XP for free, they will charge for this regardless of who finds the problem.

4. The performance increase of Vista over XP is often significant for applications because the OS can provide access to larger memory.

5. Hardware manufacturers are reducing or eliminating driver development for XP. So new peripherals such as printers, scanners, etc. may no longer come with the capability to work with XP.

6. XP cannot fully utilize the new hardware we are deploying, such as memory beyond 3.2G, directX 10 hardware acceleration, etc.

7. IT's next-generation support tool (Microsoft Config Manager) will support both Vista64 and windows 7 with essentially the same development effort. This effort would be doubled if we supported another operating system such as XP, and we are not staffed to absorb twice the load. Without this or a similar tool, IT staffing will need to be increased or service levels decreased.

8. By transitioning to support of Vista (and then to Windows 7), we can then utilize the Config Manager tool to reduce the manpower required to support the CLC's.

9. Nearly any software that will run on XP can be run in Vista. Even if a Vista-specific upgrade is not available from the software vendor, IT can create a virtual machine which will usually run the application.

10. IT's Vista install is not the same as a Vista home installation - our installation effects a relatively minor change in user experience from XP, aside from the performance increases.

11. Users who would find such a change disruptive are encouraged to discuss their needs with our IT managers - in this case Melissa Hill. Such discussions are intended as partnership discussions, not adversarial ones. Our implementation effort strives to understand why Vista won't work for a given user in any given situation - and we work to be accommodating to minimize negative impact to the campus community. To date, 3 of about 100 of the staff & faculty thus far involved in this year's DE program have engaged with IT to utilize computing solutions other than Vista.

CAMPUS COMMUNICATIONS

1. IT has spent more than a year in development of this OS change. For the spring semester of 2009, we provided a Vista CLC in the library and encouraged feedback.

2. We provided campus communications about the change for DE computers in April, June, July, and August 2009.
   a. Presentation to ITCC Spring Symposium presentation/discussion
   b. Website launched in June w/ web banners at it.mst.edu and helpdesk.mst.edu
      http://helpdesk.mst.edu/facultystaff/vista.html
   c. eConnection July 14, 2009 (See text below)
   d. Edumine Listserv
   e. Back-to-school update, August 27, 2009

FINALLY

In 2004 our campus suffered wide-spread disruption due to a denial-of-service attack on our network. We have not had such a campus-wide shutdown due to virus or malware on end-user equipment, nor have we had another successful denial-of-service attack on our network. This is largely due to the vigilance of IT security, and our update and patching programs. To maintain this high level of service, we must adapt our technology base to facilitate continued maintenance. Moving to Vista64 (and then to Windows 7) is a part of this effort..

Faculty/Staff eConnection sent July 14

Microsoft Vista upgrade now available

July 14, 2009 7:57 AM | Permalink

The 64-bit version of the Microsoft Vista operating system is now available for installation on university-owned and managed computers. Upgrading to Vista allows the use of many new software packages needed for campus academic and administrative work.

New computers purchased through the desktop enhancement program and computers rebuilt by IT will come loaded with Vista. While support for older computers using Windows XP will still be available, IT is working to transition all Windows-based computers on campus to the Vista operating system.

Computers must have hardware capable of running Vista prior to installation. For more information about the upgrade, including details about the hardware required to run Vista, visit helpdesk.mst.edu/facultystaff/vista.html.

To request installation of Microsoft Vista on your computer, call the IT Help Desk at 341-HELP (4357).

From Back-to-School update sent August 27

- **Microsoft Vista available for IT-managed computers**
  Upgrades are available for compatible computers by calling the IT Help Desk ([more](#))

- **Multiple announcements via IT blog May through September**. Search Archives at itpress.mst.edu.