

Are You Ready for Windows 7?

by Scott Toney

► Microsoft will be releasing its latest version of Windows on October 22nd. Windows 7 is here to stay so start planning for your upgrades now. By all accounts, the press and IT community feel that Microsoft has got it right this time. But what does that mean for you?

If you are in the market for a new PC in the next few months, this may be a great time for you. Even entry level machines should handle Windows 7 just fine. The question at that point then is, do you need a new PC and which version of Windows 7 is right for you?

Windows 7 Home Premium is designed for general home use. Windows 7 Professional includes support for business use. Windows 7 Ultimate adds additional data protection and can be used in either environment. All 3 versions will be available in 32bit and 64bit editions. 64bit Windows is becoming very popular because it can take advantage of large amounts of RAM memory, but be careful. Check to make sure your software has a 64bit version or is compatible with a 64bit operating system before purchase.

If you are looking to upgrade your current PC to Windows 7, be sure to check your hardware for compatibility. Upgrading from Windows XP to Windows 7 is possible with a clean install. Upgrading from Windows Vista to Windows 7 without starting over may be possible depending on which versions you are going from and to. CCS can help you with this process and even tell you if it makes sense to do it at all.

What if you are not ready? Many of our business customers do not want version 1.0 of any operating system, so even though Windows 7 is getting rave reviews and overall have few compatibility issues, it may be wise to wait. For those who would rather make sure they stay operational with no compatibility issues, CCS Technologies will continue to provide machines that can be downgraded to Windows XP Professional.

"Relax...we're on IT"

Warning! A fake virus alert is sounding an alarm!

by Scott Toney

► OK, that sounds confusing. That's because it is. Still confused? The whole point of many virus infections we are seeing on the CCS repair bench is to daze and confuse you, and make you react out of fear. A fake warning will pop up saying you have been infected. It may even begin a "scan" and "find" multiple "infections" on your computer and recommend you do something about it right away. It may recommend you buy something to remove this infection. By buying this "protection" all you are really doing is giving a hacker your credit card information and your money. Don't do it! So how do you spot these fake alerts? Here are some tips:

- The real Microsoft Security Center will not tell you that you are infected. It may say you have

not gotten an update, or that your security software has been disabled. It will never ask you to buy something.

- Know what antivirus you have! If CCS has helped you install antivirus, you probably have either Avast or Sophos. If you don't know, call us.
- Keep your antivirus and Microsoft security patches up-to-date.
- Use safe surfing habits, be careful with what attachments you open, avoid "bad" websites.

If you need help, CCS Technologies is only a phone call away!

"Relax...we're on IT"

Microsoft Security Essentials, a Game Changer for Home Antivirus?

► Microsoft released a new free product September 29th called "Microsoft Security Essentials". It provides real-time protection against viruses, spyware, and other malicious software, and is aimed at the average home PC. By all accounts it is comparable with all the top tier

antivirus offerings including current paid versions. As good as this product appears to be out of the box, CCS still recommends caution before jumping ship from proven products. CCS Technologies is currently evaluating this product and will keep you posted if it tops our recommended list!

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Greg and Ellen Slater are excited to announce the opening of another CCS Technologies store featuring a Computer Repair Center and Computer Sales and Support specializing in small to medium size business I.T. support. Opening soon at 206 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven. [Watch for Grand Opening details.](#)

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