



aspadvisor

Welcome to the April edition of the **aspadvisor**.

It's Out! Service Pack 1 for Vista

Windows Vista Service Pack1 is the first major update to Windows Vista; a collection of bug fixes, minor functional changes, and other additions to Microsoft's latest operating system.

You may have heard various self-proclaimed experts, even Sunrise's Kochie, recommending waiting until Service Pack 1 was released before purchasing Windows Vista. Initially, Microsoft (MS) kept very quiet about their plans for releasing SP1, as they were hoping that if no-one knew when it was coming out, they would still buy Vista on it's initial release. However, MS came clean in August '07, allegedly because their corporate customers were holding off purchases awaiting the arrival of the Service Pack.

asp has applied and been testing Service Pack 1 for quite a while. We have read various literature on what it is supposed to do, and have compiled our own list of *actual* Vista issues that have been attended to with Service Pack 1.

The most improved aspect is the speed of copy and move commands. Initially, Vista spent more time calculating how long it would take to move or copy a file than it took to actually perform the task. Thank-

UAC - Annoying, but Short-Lived

UAC (User Access Control) prompts Vista users to verify their actions when doing administrative tasks, like installing software or accessing the command prompt. It was anticipated that UAC might be relaxed in SP1 (due to popular demand), however MS research discovered that after the initial 30 days with a new computer, the majority of user sessions did not encounter a UAC prompt. So once you have all of your programs and hardware installed, you shouldn't be prompted again.

fully, SP1 enables Vista to calculate and copy/move much faster, particularly across networks, which is of obvious importance to business users.

Remote Desktop users also benefit from SP1, with significant increases in speeds remotely accessing specific types of

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asp tests - Windows Server 2008

Windows Server 2008 is the most substantial upgrade to the Windows Server product line since Windows 2000. With refined tools and processes Windows Server 2008 is also proving to be the most stable version of Server yet. Windows Server 2008 is now fully componentised allowing administrators to install only the server components necessary for the environment in which the server resides – this provides a more secure server requiring less updates.



Some of the new or updated tools are:

Server Manager – a completely redesigned interface providing one central point for administering the server and its functions, i.e. Active Directory Domain Services, Application Server, DHCP, DNS, File Services and Terminal Services to name a few.

Server Core – in this new installation mode, Microsoft (MS) has stripped out virtually all the Graphical User Interface (GUI), so there's no "shell"; Start Menu, taskbar, Explorer windows, etc., and little in the way of end user applications such as Windows Media Player, Internet Explorer, and Windows Mail, though a few GUI based applications, like Notepad and Task Manager, are still available.

Read Only Domain Controller – this is a new function allowing administrators to configure the Active Directory as read only. This is specifically designed for branch offices, so a branches onsite server stores only username and password information specific for it, making it more secure from both internal and external attack.

Internet Information Services 7 – the new web server in Server 2008 has received a major update, and like Server 2008, IIS7 is also fully componentised. Ergo if you don't need FTP, then don't install it.

Terminal Services – the Windows product highly valued by **asp**. Terminal Services (TS) in Server 2008 is by far the best version ever, giving the ability to deploy individual applications to desktops making the end user experience that much better. The new TS Gateway gives users a more secure method of connecting to company TS Servers via HTTPS, without the need for a VPN.

Instant Karma & Free Rice

If you've got a spare minute, and are looking for a quick way to save the world, try www.freerice.com

It's a vocabulary game, and for every answer you get right, the website donates 20 grains of rice to the United Nations to end world hunger.

I want it - how can I get it?

asp can advise how Windows Server 2008 will enhance your current network setup, and it will be available for new servers.

Six Word Story

Automobile warranty expires. So does engine.

asp tests - Windows Server 2008

Network Access Protection - this feature allows you to setup security policies for your network: When a client system connects, NAP examines the device to make sure it meets the requirements of your security policies. Those that do are allowed online. Those that do not are pushed aside into a quarantined part of the network, where they can be updated.

Windows Firewall – Windows Firewall is now turned on by default and is also now bidirectional. It is easier to configure as when you add a new role to the server, Windows Firewall will automatically insert the firewall rules.

Hyper-V – Utilizing new hardware and Hyper-V (Windows Virtualisation) you can now run several servers in one. This is perfect when you need to run an old application that only runs on older versions of Windows. For Example – install a new Server 2008 with Exchange 2007 for your network, and then install a Virtual Server of Windows NT to run that old DOS application you need and only worry about one piece of hardware.

Availability – Windows Server 2008 will have the following versions:

Windows Server 2008 Web Server - 32 and 64 bit versions

Max 4 Processors and 4Gb RAM (32 bit) or 32Gb RAM (64 bit)

Windows Server 2008 Standard - 32 and 64 bit versions, and with or without Hyper-V

Max 4 Processors and 4Gb RAM (32 bit) or 32Gb RAM (64 bit)

Includes 1 virtual instance per license

Windows Server 2008 Enterprise - 32 and 64 bit versions, and with or without Hyper-V

Max 8 Processors and 64Gb RAM (32 bit) or 2Tb RAM (64 bit)

Includes 4 virtual instances per license

Windows Server 2008 Datacenter – 32 and 64 bit versions, and with or without Hyper-V

Max 32 Processors and 64Gb RAM (32 bit) or 64 Processors and 2Tb RAM (64 bit)

Includes unlimited virtual instances per license

It's Out! Service Pack 1 for Vista

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servers. MS have released a stand alone patch to deal with this issue, though it did come out around the same time as SP1 and will be added to the update mix.

The number of devices that are now properly compatible with Vista has almost doubled with the release of SP1, now totalling some 80,000; and the improvements to existing drivers are yet to be fully understood and explored, though a known (and to us rather surprising) example is the improvement in laptop battery life by an average of 7%.

SP1 now completes Windows Vista. The only reason now to not use Vista on new computers, is if you are running applications that are not compatible—although these applications are become rarer by the day.

We recommend good quality hardware with a minimum of Dual Core processing and 2Gb of RAM to utilise the power of MS Windows Vista.



Vaguely Interesting

When Lampposts Attack — cue music

When British telcos introduced ultra-cheap text messaging, they obviously weren't considering the health implications. We're not talking about SMS thumb, RSI or getting beat up because you decided that texting during the movie was not, in fact, incredibly annoying for everybody else in the cinema. We're talking about lampposts.



Apparently the problem of people stupidly walking into lampposts while texting has become such an epidemic in London that the government there has started wrapping lamp posts in rugby-style thick padding. Ten posts in Brick Lane in East London have been wrapped in the padding, and if all goes well the plan is to add padding to posts in other "danger zones" throughout the city.

According to a study by texting information service, 118118, one in ten Britons have injured themselves while walking and texting in the last 12 months. The problem has become so severe that there's even talk of painting coloured lines on roads to keep texters out of trouble as they walk and text.

Partner Profile

christie&betro

Established in 1990, christie&betro is a specialist human resource management consultancy providing corporate training, recruitment, organisational development & support to businesses in all aspects of managing & developing people so that they perform to the best of their ability & add value to the business.

Managing people can be difficult & time consuming. christie&betro believe that successful people management starts with the recruitment process & continues through all staff management processes including assessing performance with measurable indicators, employing the right structure to support them & training to fill the gaps in performance.

christie&betro is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) & provides in-house and public training in Government Certified qualifications.

Their business is about relationships & they build them with their clients by getting to know the business whilst utilising the benefits of their experience.

christie&betro can be contacted on 08 8231 4644 or go to www.christieandbetro.com.au for further information.

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