

*This is the second part in a two-part series.*

## **Opening windows just got easier**

By: G.C.Silva

As a computer consultant in the field, I see just about everything. From people trying to get the most from their 10-year-old PCs to electrical surges and even lighting strikes.

I have gotten many calls recently on something brand new to most of you. In fact, if you have not heard about it yet, you will this fall. Microsoft is planning a multibillion-dollar advertising campaign to get you to hear about it.

It is being touted as the next best thing since, well since Windows XP. Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system due out in stores and installed on new computers October 2009. (At the time of this writing.) It is to replace Microsoft's Windows Vista and is said to be more compatible with programs and more stable. People with computer's running Window's Vista, Windows XP and even Windows 2000 on older systems will have the option to purchase an upgrade version for a nominal fee.

To understand the different versions of Windows 7 and what they have to offer might seem a little tricky while standing at the retail shelf with the only obvious difference being the price. There are a total of four different versions. Windows 7 Home Basic. This will only come pre-installed on the most basic computers and run fine for most people at home. You won't be able to buy this version as a standalone product. Windows 7 Home Premium. This will include everything in the Home Basic and add the ability to watch TV on your PC if you have the hardware. Windows 7 Professional. This will include all the features of Home Premium and give the user the ability to Run existing Windows XP productivity applications in Windows XP Mode. This was a key feature missing in Windows Vista where it came to compatibility with its prior operating system. Then there is Windows 7 Ultimate. This is what it states. It will do everything the lesser products do and give the user the ability to bitlock (Encrypt with a password.) their files. Handy in case your computer is ever stolen. Even the most skilled tech will not be able to crack the passwords you have encrypted your files with. Be warned, Don't forget your own password because the files will be inaccessible

and lost forever. Also, with the Ultimate version you will not only be able to work in the language of your choice or switch between any of thirty-five languages it is offered in.

Windows 7 looks and feels a lot like Windows Vista but will have the stability and reliability of Windows XP with a few added tweaks. Notepad and Microsoft Paint got the major upgrades they deserved while the menu system is the dramatic change in this revision. It will be easier once you understand how it organizes files and get used to the new style menus. Almost everything is thumbnail driven. A thumbnail being a representation of the item or application you want to make full screen. Making it essentially easier to open a window and get what you expect.

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