

Welcome

This month's new members:

John Bethel
Richard Blunt
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WINDOWS VISTA Speeding up

When your memory, computer that is, has filled up your computer will slow down. One way to speed it up is to add more RAM but this can be expensive and limited in some computers such as laptops. Vista has a programme called **"ReadyBoost"** that you can use to solve the problem by using an external USB flash drive or camera-type memory card (SD) as extra memory. ReadyBoost is very clever, but before you start you need to make sure that you have the right type of flash drive or memory card. You will need a minimum of 250MB and a maximum of 4GB, and it needs to be capable of certain speeds - 2.5MB per second. The drive or card makers will usually state "ReadyBoost Certified". When you plug in the drive or card Vista will check if it is okay and if not it will refuse to run it. If it does run you will notice a massive difference. To enable ReadyBoost double-click My Computer, then Properties then the ReadyBoost Tab.

Check out:

Microsoft

<http://tinyurl.com/5jv73p>

Sandisk

<http://tinyurl.com/nnjepj>

<http://tinyurl.com/ld25zz>

What is a Netbook?

You will have heard of this term recently. A netbook is a mini-laptop computer designed for mobility, wired and wireless online access, word processing and general office applications. Weighing about 1kg and featuring LCD screens between 15-25 cm, it is designed for people on the go who want connectivity without lugging a much heavier, full-sized laptop along. They do not have integrated CD/DVD players but do feature USB ports, a video-out port, SD card reader, speakers and microphone and headphone jacks. Keyboards are smaller than a standard board, and memory and disk drive space vary, dependent in part on the operating system installed. Battery life also varies between models, ranging from two to seven hours.

Netbooks with less memory and smaller static drives generally feature a portable Linux operating system, while models with more RAM and platter drives come pre-installed with Windows XP. A netbook with the XP operating system can have as much as 2 GB RAM and a 160 GB platter disk drive, making XP models more expensive and slightly heavier than leaner Linux models. Some models use a static "drive", limited to 4GB to 64GB. Later models should be able to run Windows 7.

Most use the Intel Atom CPU with prices ranging from \$750 to over \$4,000, whereas a laptop with full capabilities, a much faster CPU and a DVD drive can be had

for under \$1000. Laptops have become desktop replacements in many cases, and for some consumers the "extra" money paid for more expensive netbooks is worth the portability alone.

Given their minimal specifications, netbooks are popular for those on the move such as travellers and students. If you're in the market for a netbook, shop carefully. Specs are constantly climbing with newer models featuring more RAM and larger hard drives, though price rises accordingly.

Vodafone is offering a Dell 9" free if you sign up for a mobile broadband plan. If your needs are simple, such as writing letters or emailing, you should be satisfied with a basic model at a low price. In any case, the lightweight, portable, and very friendly netbook is taking the market by storm and is available everywhere computer products are sold.

In a recent survey results showed that of school and tertiary students, 34% preferred netbooks, 49% traditional laptop and 17% Apple Macbooks.



Asustek Netbook

Home Phone and the Internet

Telecom no longer have a monopoly on 'phone and internet services. You are free to choose who offers the best deal. Most people, though, stay with Telecom because they do not want to lose their number. You don't have to as you can now take your number with you. Once you have found a provider of your choice

the new provider will do everything to change you over.

Your bill will be from them and not Telecom.

Details at:

<http://tinyurl.com/m9q8ec>

For a list of providers

<http://tinyurl.com/l6m4jj>

WINDOWS LIVE Movie Maker

Windows Live Movie maker is free download from Microsoft for creating movies and slide-shows from your own photographs and videos. Released in August 2009 it replaces the previous version in Vista.

It does not run under Xp - only Vista and Windows 7. It is quite different from the earlier versions of Movie Maker and has one quite useful feature for novices. This is the Quick Movie-Making feature that does most editing automatically.

The aim is to simplify the process of video editing and it competes with Apple's iMovie '09. It is not a full-featured editing programme, Microsoft does advise that, but it is easy to learn.

Check out the full details at :

<http://tinyurl.com/loyxhc>

Photo Gallery

Since last month's article, Microsoft has released an improved version as part of its Live Suite. It features grouping of photos by date, allows adjustment of shadows, highlights and sharpness, panoramic stitching, batch resizing, batch rotation and face detection. Adjusts exposure and colour by or auto-adjust.

Designed for Vista and Windows 7, it will run under XP but some functions may be limited.

It also provides direct uploading of photos to Windows Live, Flickr and Facebook.

Check out full details at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ndrm2n>

Windows Live

These are but two of many Windows Live services which is a collective brand name for a range of services and software from Microsoft, the majority being web-based and accessed through a web browser.

A list of the full range is at:

<http://tinyurl.com/y3q48u>

Windows 7

Three years after Microsoft launched Windows Vista, crippling otherwise competent computers with obscene system requirements and feature bloat, Microsoft has returned for redemption with Windows 7, otherwise known as "what Vista should have been." It is due to be released in New Zealand in October of this year.

Though not as revolutionary, Microsoft has promised some long-awaited refinements, including better performance, a powerful universal search, and better driver and hardware compatibility. There have been many reviews published, all lauding the improvements. Any new machine on the market today should be able to handle Windows 7. Most claim it to be faster than Vista and will run on the older computers than won't run Vista. However, some reports claim that XP is still better on the older computer.

Vista is officially dead and buried, and its successor is one you can actually warm up to. Do you need to upgrade? If you are running Vista on a computer that is less than 3 years old probably yes. While it will be distributed on

DVD, it is reported that it will also be available on a Flash Drive for those users who do not have a DVD drive.



But don't rush. Wait for a few months for the bugs to be ironed out. PCs with a license for Vista Home Premium, Vista Business and Vista Ultimate purchased between June 26, 2009 and Jan. 31, 2010 will be eligible for a free or reduced-price Windows 7 upgrade. Vista Home Basic is excluded. What is the cost for upgrades? No pricing released as yet for NZ but in the US it is \$119 to \$299 whereas Apple's OS X 6 (Snow Leopard) is \$59NZ and one size fits all. As there are hundreds of reviews we haven't provided any links but suggest that you search the Internet.

Along with Windows 7 Microsoft is releasing a new version of MS Office, to be known as Office 2010. Reviews at:

<http://tinyurl.com/nbc3ll>

Genealogy Notes

If you are doing searching in New Zealand one useful service is that provided by the Alexander Turnbull Library, now part of the National Library. You would have to visit the Library to access most items but you can view what they have at : <http://tinyurl.com/lqcfj8>

One problem that arises when searching is that over time street names and numbers change. This can throw you off in the wrong di-

rection especially if you are tracing someone through census returns. Often you may find old maps that will help which the ATL has over 60,000. Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/nl38u6>

If you are looking for property titles you need to do this on-line through Land Information NZ (You have to pay for this) <http://tinyurl.com/nfch9f>