

Vista Released

Microsoft released Windows Vista Release Candidate 2 (RC2), or the latest test version of its much-anticipated—and oft-delayed—operating system (OS), on Friday the 6th October and said it expects the build to be the last test release before it ships Vista to manufacturers and enterprises.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft is pretty much recognised as the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses utilise their computer to its full advantage.

But before you all rush out to buy your new Vista operating system, perhaps you should listen to a few of the comments being made by some of the early reviewers on the subject.

According to Microsoft, Windows Vista will introduce a breakthrough user experience when released for business this December and for the end user in February. Vista is designed to help users feel confident in their ability to view, find and organise information and to control their computing experience, said a spokesman.

“The visual sophistication of Windows Vista helps streamline your computing experience by refining common window elements so you can better focus on the content on the screen rather than on how to access it. The desktop experience is more informative, intuitive, and helpful, and new tools bring better clarity to information on your computer, so you can see what your files contain without opening them, find applications and files instantly, navigate efficiently among open windows, and use wizards and dialog boxes more confidently,” he said.

However, according to *Techweb*, (the IT professional’s online resource for Information Technology News) the licences will limit the number of times that it is possible to transfer the operating system to another device. The two least expensive models will not be allowed to work in a virtual machine.



Techweb hacks have been working their way through the licence and found a few things that have not been mentioned in the official releases.

The first is that once you have installed Vista on a machine you can only move it once. If you have an upgrade of your motherboard or anything else that will cause the operating system to think that it is a new computer you have to buy a new copy of Vista. While the expensive versions of Vista, Vista Ultimate and Vista Business, can be installed within a Virtual Machine environment, Vole forbids you from doing so with the cheaper Vista Home Basic and Vista Home Premium.

“When you start using Windows Vista, you will recognise familiar elements such as the Start menu, which is now faster, more streamlined, and more helpful than in previous versions of Windows.” says the Microsoft launch blurb. “The Start menu features integrated desktop search through a new feature called “Instant Search” which can help you find and launch almost anything on your PC. Just type in a word, a name, or a phrase, and Instant Search can find the right file for you. But more than that, the new start menu makes it very easy for you to navigate across all of the installed applications on your PC. Eliminating the slow performing, cascading “All Programs” view, the new start menu can help you get something started more quickly than ever,” he says.

Mike Sievert, Corporate VP of Microsoft Client Marketing went through the improved search function at the Digital Life Conference in New York on the 12th October – including how the search is now part of the task bar and is contextual and will search the entire network. In what has become a Microsoft tradition, the demo did not go off without a hitch. A search for “desktop” and “wallpaper” returned no results under the control panel. Whoops!

