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Vista Readiness: Engaging the Pros

WHITE PAPER

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Microsoft Windows Vista - the biggest event in five years in the PC industry is now underway. Launched for business users in November 2006 and for consumers in January 2007, Vista will eventually become a part of your world. Whether you have decided to embark upon the Vista migration journey or are holding off on making a decision for another 6 months, you most likely have questions such as:

- > What impact will Vista have on my organization?
- > How much time and how many people will be needed to upgrade all of our desktop and laptop computers to Vista?
- > How much budget is required to upgrade our existing PC hardware and software so that our computers can be upgraded to Vista?
- > How will a Vista upgrade impact other organizations in the company?
- > When will this fit in to our strategic and operating plans given the other projects that we have?

If you had answers to these questions, you would most likely have an easier decision to make regarding when and how to migrate to Vista. You can try to get these answers by yourself or you can enlist the help of desktop management professionals who can get you to the answers faster. This brief provides a summary of how Everdream can help as you prepare for the journey into the Vista frontier. The time is now to understand what you have in your environment and what it will take to move to a Vista world.

A WORLD NOT READY FOR VISTA

Recently Everdream performed a survey of nearly 145,000 desktop and laptop PCs to determine how they compared to Microsoft's recommended hardware requirements for Vista:

Recommended Requirements (Premium-Ready PCs):

- > 1 GB RAM
- > 1 GHz microprocessor
- > 40 GB hard drive
- > 15 GB free hard drive space

The survey concluded that:

- > 69.5% of machines do not have the required RAM
- > 62.4% of machines do not have the required hard drive
- > 18.4% of machines do not have the required free hard drive space
- > 6.7% of machines do not have the required processor speed
- > 79.9% of machines do not meet at least one of the above listed requirements
- > 93.8% of companies have at least one machine that does not meet the above requirements

As the survey demonstrates, a majority of machines in use today are not ready for Vista and this is only looking at the problem from a hardware perspective. When looking at it from a software compatibility standpoint, these numbers are most likely higher as many software vendors will require an application upgrade to run on Vista.

Clearly the world is not ready for Vista and many companies are pushing off the Vista decision to give them more time to answer the important Vista migration questions. Whether you are looking to make the decision now or in 6, 9, or 12 months, wouldn't you like to have the answers to these questions now to make your decision-making process easier?

“Everdream’s striking numbers demonstrate that upgrading to Windows Vista may prove to be even more difficult than originally anticipated. Consumers and business buyers alike should be very careful about the labels that they’ll see on systems nowadays — a system that is Windows Vista *capable* doesn’t necessarily translate to one that is Windows Vista *enjoyable*.”

Mark Minasi
Technology columnist and author of the popular Mastering series and The Complete PC Upgrade and Maintenance Guide

ENGAGING THE DESKTOP MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS

If you do not have the people, skills or tools in-house to get a handle on your desktop and laptop environment or you do not want to spend your precious resources today, Everdream can help you through its new Inventory Assessment Program. As a one-time engagement, this program provides critical asset inventory information that can be used to plan your Vista migration as well as used for other purposes such as Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, software license compliance, PC lifecycle management, etc.

Using its unique, on-demand desktop management software services, Everdream's desktop management professionals will analyze your desktop and laptop environment and deliver a robust set of inventory analysis reports including:

- > Asset Discovery report of all IP-based devices in your environment
- > Hardware Analysis report of all PCs including:
 - > Total number of PCs by location and by manufacturer
 - > PCs with low hard drive space
 - > Suggestions for refreshing hardware
 - > Raw hardware inventory data for your own analysis
- > Vista Readiness report assessing hardware readiness
- > Microsoft Operating System Analysis report including:
 - > Total number of PCs with Microsoft OS by location
 - > Number of PCs with particular Microsoft OS
 - > Number of PCs with particular Service Packs
 - > Raw operating system data for your own analysis
- > Microsoft Office Installation report including:
 - > Total number of PCs with Microsoft Office by location
 - > Microsoft Office types and number of PCs using each
 - > Installation count for Microsoft Visio and Project
 - > Raw software inventory data (all installed software) for your own analysis
- > Antivirus Analysis report including:
 - > Total number of PCs with antivirus software by location
 - > Type of antivirus software and number of PCs using each
 - > PCs without identified antivirus software
 - > Antivirus health (definition date) analysis (Symantec only)
 - > Raw antivirus analysis data for your own analysis
- > Patch Management report including:
 - > Top 100 missing Microsoft patches across all PCs
 - > Top 100 missing Microsoft critical patches across all PCs
 - > List of PCs by missing patch
 - > List of missing patches for each PC
 - > Raw patch management data for your own analysis

With this information, you will be able to figure out your strategy for migrating to Vista at the right time and cost that makes sense for your organization.

So how does this program work? The Inventory Assessment Program relies on the use of Everdream's on-demand desktop management software services to capture the detailed asset information from each PC. After discovering all your IP-based devices and deploying the lightweight, unobtrusive Everdream Client Manager software agent on each Windows PC, Everdream's desktop management professionals will analyze the detailed PC asset information uploaded to the Everdream Control Center, our hosted data center which is accessible via a Web

browser. You will receive the above analysis and reports as well as access to the raw data to perform your own analysis. All of this can be done in a short period of time to deliver you the answers you need to make your Vista decisions.

So why wait? Everdream and its desktop management professionals can get you one step closer to Vista readiness by providing you with a rich set of asset inventory information and analysis to help you answer the difficult questions around Vista migration. All of this without spending your valuable time and resources which should stay focused on your strategic, line-of-business initiatives.

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ABOUT EVERDREAM

Everdream Corporation is the market leader in delivering cost effective, low risk on-demand desktop management software services that enable greater asset visibility, ensure business uptime and deliver high end-user satisfaction, while significantly reducing the total cost of ownership of corporate PCs. Built around a powerful and cost effective Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) platform model, Everdream delivers a comprehensive set of software services via a single, integrated management console, enabling companies to manage their mobile, distributed workforces via the web anytime from anywhere in the world. Combined with its "Try, Buy, Deploy" self-service model, Everdream helps organizations such as UPS Stores, ADP, Brocade Communications, Korean Airlines, Midas International, Salesforce.com, Sonic Automotive, Sylvan Learning Centers and others to quickly and easily deploy, activate and manage the desktop management functions required to achieve maximum compliance, greater desktop protection and employee satisfaction. For more information, visit the Everdream Web site at www.everdream.com or call 888-307-7299.

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