

WINDOWS VISTA® READINESS

ENGAGING THE PROS

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

- > What impact will Windows 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 Windows Vista?
- > How much budget is required to upgrade our existing PC hardware and software so that our computers can be upgraded to Windows Vista?
- > How will a Windows Vista upgrade impact other organizations in the company?
- > When will this fit into 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 Windows Vista. You can try to get these answers by yourself or you can enlist the help of desktop management professionals who can help you get the answers faster. This brief provides a summary of how Dell can help as you prepare for the journey into the Windows Vista frontier. The time is now to understand what you have in your environment and what it will take to move to a Windows Vista world.

ARE YOU READY FOR WINDOWS VISTA?

In March 2007, Dell performed a survey of nearly 145,000 desktop and laptop PCs within businesses to determine how they compared to Microsoft's recommended hardware requirements for Windows Vista:

Recommended Minimum 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, many machines in use today are not ready for Windows 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 the Windows Vista operating system.

Those companies that are not ready for Windows Vista may be pushing off the Windows Vista decision to give them more time to answer important Windows 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?

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ENGAGING 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, Dell can help you through its Inventory Assessment Program. As a one-time engagement, this program provides critical asset inventory information that can be used to plan your Windows Vista migration and may also be 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, Dell's desktop management professionals will analyze your desktop and laptop environment and deliver a robust set of inventory analysis reports that may include:

- > 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
- > Windows 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 Windows 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 Dell's on-demand desktop management software services to capture the detailed asset information from each PC. After discovering your IP-based devices and deploying the lightweight, unobtrusive Dell™ Client Manager software agent on each Windows® PC, Dell's desktop management professionals will analyze the detailed PC asset information uploaded to the Dell 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 Windows Vista decisions.

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

ABOUT DELL

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