

# Windows 7- now or wait?

An article by

[My IT Support](#)

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Well it's here. Windows 7 has been released by Microsoft succeeding the much maligned Windows Vista. So is it worth upgrading too? Yes it is, from both Vista and XP. There is a link to the home page of 7 at the foot of this document demonstrating highlights, new features and specifications. But first, a couple of considerations. Should you upgrade or wait a little while, especially if you have suffered the wrath of Windows Vista? Normally I would caution on initial releases of any software until it has been on the market for at least 6 months, especially Operating Systems. But this one is good. I have been using it for the past few months as an evaluation release. It installed without a hiccup and has run almost flawlessly in this time.

However a couple of points to note: As with all new operating systems some software companies are slow to catch up. For example, the PDF printing function within QuickBooks 2009 failed to run on install and hasn't done since. This highlights the necessity to check that your commonly used programs are compatible with any new operating system or that updates are available online. You will find that some companies will take advantage and demand payment for new 'versions' that are compatible with 7.

The second point is upgrading or a fresh install. In my opinion you will get the most out of Windows by completing a clean installation. In fact if you have Windows XP, you will have no choice but to do this. But whilst this may be painfully time consuming, I feel it may be worth it. I have been observing all sorts of banter amongst discussion sites about the murky path of upgrading. This is one transition that Microsoft can model only so far. The real test will be with the millions of installed installations with their differing settings, programs and system registries that will tell the tale. So I would advise to err on the side of caution with upgrading. Besides, there is nothing better than a brand new, chirpy, responsive computer to start the day!

Finally, specifications. Microsoft claim that 7 will run on 1 gigabyte or memory (RAM) and a one gigabyte processor. Ahem, yes maybe, but try running Office with antivirus in the background with MYOB and ACT on the side, let alone some of the pretty features that come with the operating system. No, don't kid yourself. In our opinion Windows 7 is best suited to an Intel Dual Core or AMD Opteron processor or higher and with at least 2 gigs of RAM. Four would be better (Windows 32 bit systems cannot not run with more than 4 gigabytes anyway). If you are really keen, you can make the move to 64 bit computing with umpteen gigs of ram, but make doubly sure your programs will operate with it.

<http://www.microsoft.com/australia/windows/windows-7/default.aspx>