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N E W S L E T T E R A P R I L 2 0 0 7

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Windows Vista @ 60 Days

Windows Vista has been out for about two months now ... so what's the verdict so far?

As summarized in our February newsletter, we see no compelling reason to upgrade an existing computer to Vista, and trying to do so may run into complicating issues (see www.WindowsVista.com for an upgrade advisor).

However all new computers will soon be preinstalled with Vista, and all previous versions will slowly but surely fade away and become unsupported. So as long as what you have is still working fine you're OK, but be prepared to move up to Vista when you purchase your next new computer.

In a recent roundtable discussion hosted by InformationWeek, various computer system managers discussed their views of Vista. All agree that they will be upgrading, the only real question is when. In a large organization with perhaps tens or hundreds or thousands of networked computers, spread sometimes over multiple locations, any kind of change can be a big job and careful planning is essential. And, simply replacing all machines is not usually feasible due to budget limitations, so upgrade issues must be tackled.

For individuals who can just wait until they're ready to purchase a new computer, Vista's increased hardware requirements should not be a concern since any new machine that's preinstalled with Vista will have at least the minimum CPU, memory, hard drive, and display resolution.

However, software can be another matter. For those who mainly use only a web browser and email, the new components included with Vista - like IE7 and Windows Mail (which replaces Outlook Express) - will probably be adequate.

Those who use standard Microsoft Office programs like Word and Excel may want to take advantage of probable discounts for Office 2007 when purchasing a new Vista-equipped computer.

In all other cases it will be important to check the compatibility of your existing software with Vista. Custom business applications will certainly have information posted about this. Those involved with graphic design and publication may be interested to know that current versions of the widely-used Adobe suite of products have known problems with Vista, but Adobe has announced there will be no updates so new versions will need to be purchased.

So far we've seen only a few new Vista machines in the OCS service center. No real problems have been noticed, only various orientation issues due mostly to layout changes. We have Vista installed for troubleshooting assistance and customer support.

Mine Hill tower is now ready for Success Valley

As you wind and turn along Success Valley Drive, a new tower is now visible on a high slope above the old mine shafts to the west.

This at long last brings high-speed wireless Internet service to this tucked-away valley. The photo shows the tower, which should be visible to most residents of the valley either reflecting in the morning sun or in silhouette in the afternoon. If you can see it from your home, it's likely we can provide service (including VoIP, see also Page 2).

The tower is finished and service is now available. Call our office now to place your reservation!



The OCS website passed
 10,000,000 hits in March 2007

Work from home!

OCS can connect your home to your office or tie multiple offices together at high speed and with full "VPN" security, anywhere in the Valley or beyond...



OCS service plans are described at www.porterville.com

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WIRELESS SERVICE AREAS

Success Valley is ready!

- Porterville
- Springville
- Pleasant Valley
- River Island
- Globe Drive
- Strathmore
- Terra Bella
- Lindsay
- Exeter
- Visalia
- Yokohl Valley
- Camp Nelson
- Success Valley
- In progress
- Richgrove

Our Exeter tower also covers Badger Hill!

- VIRUSES STOPPED BY OCS SYSTEM: 1,279,295 (Mar 2007: 1,195)
- SPAM BLOCKED BY OCS SYSTEM: 60,904,352 (Mar 2007: 2,458,819)

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Email Filtering Software

Too many programs can create conflicts

OCS Customer Service fairly often encounter support calls that are eventually traced to a conflict between competing email filtering programs.

For example, the OCS email system has long provided virus and spam protection. In addition, most new computers also come with preinstalled trial versions of AV (anti-virus) and email spam filtering programs, which are usually active by default and can be persistent in their diligence.



While it may seem that two programs helping to block viruses and spam must be better than one, that's usually not the case. And sometimes we see machines with more than two programs, all trying to do the same job. The result is usually noticeably slowed performance or even mail hangups.

We recommend that customers purchase either just the basic anti-spyware versions of these products, or if using the full suites to at least disable the email scanning components (which the OCS system is already doing), or to consider using the central OCS OfficeScan service instead. If you have questions please contact our Customer Service at 781-4123 or email CustomerService@ocsnet.net.



NATIONWIDE OCS SERVICE for FRIENDS • FAMILY • BUSINESS

OACYS VoIP | Internet-Based Phone Service

Only OACYS can completely replace your traditional phone lines. We can provide your high-speed Internet service, your telephone and fax service, and we even support STOP Alarm security systems – all with no phone lines! See our website for a complete list of FAQs and a VoIP signup form.

Third-Party Service

When you're ready for a new computer there are many shopping options, both online and in a variety of large box stores. And, most of these outlets also offer various additional service plans ... for example, Best Buy has the "Geek Squad," CompUSA has "TechPro," and Dell has "On-Call" and "At-Home" service options.

We definitely recommend supplemental warranty and service plans, especially for laptops. However, those technicians don't usually take the time to check with OCS when they exchange or modify a computer or router configuration, which can create a problem with your Internet service.

If you've received some kind of recent third-party service and your Internet connection or maybe email is suddenly not working quite as it should, please don't hesitate to call us! That's what we're here for and we'll be glad to help track down the problem and get it resolved.

Fan Mail



"I recently had a service call from the place where I bought my laptop. They were very arrogant and made me feel stupid, but OCS got my problem fixed. Thank you, I am very appreciative!" DN, 3/07

OACYS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Plan Name	Average Speeds			B-M-W ¹	One-Time Fees			Monthly Service
	Min	Typ	Max		Service Activation	Install/Configure	Equipment Deposit	
1 Bandwidth-Mailboxes-Webpace (see notes)								
DIALUP Accelerator	26K	40K	53K	1-5-5	25.00	-	-	24.95
	Typically 2-5X faster			-	-	-	-	+5.00
WIRELESS STANDARD 2.4 GHz								
24 Basic	125K	500K	750K	10-5-5	25.00	100.00	100.00	49.95 ^{2,3}
24 Premium	250K	1M	1.5M	15-5-5	25.00	100.00	100.00	79.95 ^{2,3}
24 Business	375K	1.5M	2M	20-10-10	25.00	100.00	100.00	129.95 ^{2,3}
2 Add \$10 per month amplifier fee for locations beyond 5 miles from nearest tower 3 Add \$10 per month for locations in designated remote service areas								
900 Basic	125K	375K	750K	5-5-5	25.00	100.00	100.00	59.95 ^{4,5}
Special "mission impossible" cases are those where obstacles such as trees or buildings between the wireless tower and the customer site normally make wireless service impossible. OACYS can now use new technology to provide service in some cases, sending signal around or through the obstacles. Individual circumstances will vary and this plan may not be available from all towers. Our free site survey will determine whether 900 service may be feasible when standard 24 service is not.								
4 Add \$10 per month amplifier fee for locations beyond 5 miles from nearest tower 5 Add \$10 per month for locations in designated remote service areas								
WIRELESS MISSION CRITICAL 5.8 GHz (where available)								
58 Premium	250K	1M	1.5M	15-5-5	25.00	100.00	100.00	99.95
58 Business	375K	1.5M	2M	20-10-10	25.00	100.00	100.00	129.95
58 Professional	500K	2M	3M	25-25-25	25.00	100.00	100.00	159.95
58 Corporate	750K	3M	4M	30-30-30	25.00	100.00	100.00	199.95
58 Enterprise	1M	4M	5M	40-40-40	25.00	100.00	100.00	249.95

Notes. All plans include automated central email virus scanning, email spam filtering, and website parental controls. Some plan types permit webpace for personal use only. Wireless installation and deposit package may be paid in installments upon request. All speeds are symmetrical (same for upload and download) within the OACYS network only. All plans terminate at OACYS Porterville headquarters and transport to the Internet via dual T3s over dedicated OC12 fiber optic circuit. All plans subject to change without notice. Pricing and terms are current at the date of this newsletter and supersede previous versions. Please check with our office for additional detail regarding any of our Internet service plans.

I Didn't Know That!

OCS provides "A-to-Z" computer technology services:

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- Broad variety of Internet access plans and packages
- Professional website design, development, and hosting
- Professional programming and custom application development
- eCommerce and business groupware solutions
- Computer and Internet technology consulting
- Secure branch office inter-networking
- Internet-based "VOIP" telephone services
- iSuite of online utility applications

*To set Account Preferences or make Payments Online, click **UserAdmin** on our website*