

HCS Tech. Specs.

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Time Changes = Tech Issues

It was two years ago when congress passed a law that would extend Daylight Savings Time by (DST) one month. This law was intended to allow everyone affected to enjoy a little more sunshine and help our nation burn a little less fossil fuel. At the time, the move seemed harmless to everyone but those in the technology field who knew we would be headed for a mini-Y2K. Daylight Savings Time was moved three weeks earlier in the Spring (March 11) and one week later in the Fall (first Sunday in November).

The issue is that all computers built prior to December 2006 were pre-programmed to adjust DST the old way. So, as of Sunday, March 11, 2007, all computers that have not been updated with software patches will be one hour behind. While the issues for a home user may be minimal, any corporate network with time-reliant applications faces serious issues. Just think of the ramifications for the travel and shipping industry, or the auto industry's just-in-time manufacturing schedules, or wake-up call systems in hotels.

While we at Hartland Schools don't risk losing millions of dollars in manufacturing revenue, we have to be aware of how this change will impact our computer systems. For the past 2 months the technology team, led by Jeff Maxwell has been working very hard to get the

servers patched and updated so we avoid major issues on March 11. However, with some of our older technology, the extent of the impact is still a little unclear.

Windows XP computers should all function properly, but since Microsoft discontinued support for Windows 98 almost a year ago, patching the 800 or so Hartland computers still using that operating system will prove a greater challenge.

Hartland employees who use the GroupWise Calendar will want to double-check appointment times beginning March 12 even on Windows XP computers. Even though the GroupWise server has been updated and Windows XP desktops have been updated, there seems to be confusion in the industry whether or not additional steps need to be taken to update each user's GroupWise client.

Home users will want to update their home computers with the new Daylight Savings Time settings. Two Microsoft patches are available that will change the Daylight Savings Time settings to match the new DST rules, but only for computers that are running Windows XP Service Pack 2.* Older versions of the Microsoft Operating system will require the use of an application such as TZEDIT. As children we learned the adage, "Spring-forward, Fall-back," to keep

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**March 11, 2007
Spring Ahead**

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straight which way we should change our clocks in the Spring and Fall. For Windows XP users, that saying should now be, "Patch it now, not later."

The two patches can be found by visiting the Windows Updates page - or - the fixes can be downloaded and installed separately.

To use Windows Update On Your Home Computer:

Open Internet Explorer, click on TOOLS in the gray menu bar at the top of the browser window then click on WINDOWS UPDATE. Once at the Windows Updates page, accept any pop-ups Microsoft presents to you and "Validate" your system, if necessary. Then expand the tree under "Optional Software Updates." Look for patches **928388** and **929120**. Check the boxes next to both of them then follow the links to instruct the Windows Update page to download and install both files. Of course, while you're at the Windows Update page, it's always a good idea to download any "Critical" updates the program finds are needed. If you don't want to download the "Critical" updates, you must uncheck all the boxes under the Critical Update section or all of them will be downloaded at the same time as the two DST fixes. It is **NOT** a good idea to download any "hardware" updates the program finds. We've found that, more often than not, Microsoft's idea of a compatible hardware driver will crash your machine. If your computer's modem, network card, sound, video, etc are working fine, don't accept any update for those devices!

To download and install the DST patche separately:

The first update (928388) is one everyone with a Windows XP computer should install. It is the one that corrects your computer to match the new DST scheme for the United States.

That 928388 patch can be found here:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx/kb/928388/en-us>

The second fix (929120) is an interesting patch. It accommodates DST changes already in effect in the state of Western Australia (of which Perth is the capital). Anyone who has ever gone online can tell you that you are but a mouse click away from communicating in real-time with a computer anywhere on the planet. OK, so we don't live in Perth - and we may think we don't need this patch - but it's wise to install it anyway in case your computer someday has to interact with a computer that *does* live in Perth.

That 929120 patch can be found here:

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/929120/en-us>

* Microsoft no longer officially supports Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows ME, or Windows XP machines that have not been updated to Service Pack 2. Users of those older systems must employ an application such as TZEDIT to address the DST issue. If the current settings are left alone, those users will either have to live with a computer displaying the wrong time for three weeks each spring and for another week each fall - or - they will have to make manual adjustments to their computer's internal clock four times a year, adjusting the clock an hour forward in March then resetting it back an hour when the computer kicks in with the old pre-programmed April DST scheme and sends the time yet another hour forward. The procedure would then need to be reversed when the scheme changes the time a week too early in the Fall. You would then need to re-adjust it to show the correct time in November. The simpler alternative is to go into the "Date and Time" Control Panel and uncheck the box that says, "**Automatically adjust clock for daylight saving changes.**" Then you will only have to manually reset the time on the 2nd Sunday in March and the 1st Sunday in November.

Why is it necessary to keep that password secure?

In Ohio, two teenage girls posted a fake announcement on their school district's Web site that said school was closed for the day due to winter weather, police said. The notice, posted Monday, confused many parents -- snow was not in the forecast -- and persuaded some students to stay home. Edgewood City Schools Superintendent Tom York said he discovered the posting when he logged on to write his own announcement that school would be delayed for an hour because of an extreme cold snap. The two Edgewood High School students, whose names were not released, were charged in juvenile court and face expulsion. One of the girls, 16, was charged with delinquency by unauthorized use of a computer and by reason of records tampering. The other, 17, was charged with delinquency by reason of complicity, Sheriff's Sgt. Monte Mayer said. The company that runs the Web site, RCH Networks Inc., said the system was not hacked into because no security breach was detected. Administrators say the girls must have somehow gotten the password.

Should You Upgrade to Microsoft Vista?

By Dennis Fraser

On January 30, 2007 Microsoft released its newest version of Windows, the world's most widely-used computer operating system. Vista is the first major upgrade to Windows in over five years and is being rolled out nearly two years behind Microsoft's original projected introduction date. As has been the case with many of Microsoft's new introductions, Vista's final release was pushed back numerous times due to reported bugs and problems, including several that arose late last fall in test models that were supposedly very near to production-ready. There are many ads and much hype in the media promoting Vista. Many people might ask themselves if they should be upgrading to the new operating system on their home computer. But, unless you're one of those people who has to have bragging rights to owning the latest, fastest, and best version of everything, You may want to think long and hard about it! It just might be a good idea to wait a while longer before you rush out to further line Mr. Gates' pockets with your hard-earned money. There are lots of valid questions you should be asking yourself before you commit to buying a license to run Microsoft Windows Vista.

Should you expect Vista to be far more dynamic and useful than Windows XP? Given the almost five years of development, you might be inclined to think so, and in a lot of ways and on some levels, it almost certainly is so. But, the real answer for most of us depends upon honestly asking ourselves what we need our computer to do. If you're an average user that needs your computer for schoolwork, business documents, spreadsheets, email, and Internet browsing, then you already know that your current stable Windows XP handles those tasks just fine, sometimes even faster than you can keep up. There will be only cosmetic changes, if any, in performing these basic tasks with Vista. Why be in a rush to pay a whole lot more to obtain what are basically identical results? Besides, there are going to be a whole lot of problems for early users of Vista. Much like first buyers of new car models are the ones to find all the squeaks and rattles, the earliest users of Vista will



be reporting the major flaws and bugs they find in the new operating system. Until Microsoft corrects the problems these early adopters find, Vista should probably be viewed as potentially too unstable for your important work product.

Are there other benefits to running Vista that would warrant the upgrade cost? Here again, for most of us, the straight answer right now is still no. A goodly number of the new "features" in Vista can already be found in upgrades like Internet Explorer 7 or in third-party applications and plug-ins like Firefox and Thunderbird. In fact, the cheapest Vista version, Home Basic, simply doesn't come with any of the new "bells and whistles" you'll soon see touted on all the Vista commercials. Home Basic offers none of the improved notebook wireless support, DVD burning, Windows Media Center, and cool 3D "swooshing" functions. And, Home Basic is so crippled in basic multimedia functionality that you'll almost certainly find yourself wishing you hadn't switched from the fully multimedia-capable Windows XP Home. Adding insult to injury, at \$100 for the upgrade version and \$199 for the full version, Vista Home Basic also costs more than its predecessor.

To get the newer stuff with the same (or marginally better) functionality as your current Windows XP, you've got to buy a license for Windows Vista Home Premium and lay out \$159 for the upgrade version or \$239 for the full version. Even in this better version, some third-party apps will be necessary. For instance, you'll probably still want a third-party program for burning DVDs. The Vista DVD Maker can't import QuickTime files, something most third-party apps do easily. Still other third-party programs won't work in Vista without major upgrades to the programs. For instance, your current unexpired sub-

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scription to Norton or McAfee AntiVirus won't run on Vista without a major Norton or McAfee upgrade. The same is true of QuickBooks and Quicken. Some older programs won't run at all. Before upgrading to Vista, it would be wise to check the home pages of your current applications for compatibility with Vista.

What hardware is needed to run Vista? Will an old computer even run Vista?

Ok, so let's assume you are intent on moving up to Vista anyway and want to know if your old computer can run it. Any installation of Vista is absolutely certain to be a resource HOG! So, unless your computer is less than two years old, it will either not be a possible candidate for a Vista upgrade or the investment in necessary hardware upgrades will, coupled with the cost of the new operating system, rival the cost of a brand new computer that comes complete with the new Vista already installed. The easiest way to tell if your computer is Vista-capable is to go to the Microsoft own site for Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor at: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/buyorupgrade/upgradeadvisor.mspx>

Follow the links and the application will test your PC and will tell you what your current machine lacks that you need to run Vista. A point of caution; if you follow Microsoft's "minimum" recommendations, know the stated minimums are just that, absolute minimums! Running with these minimums will almost always create a computer that will actually run the software, but it will run turtle-slow. The following are Microsoft's "Minimum System Requirements" for the various versions of Windows Vista.

Home Basic:

1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor
512 MB of system memory
20 GB hard drive with at least 15 GB of available space
Support for DirectX 9 graphics with 32 MB of graphics memory
DVD-ROM drive
Audio Output
Internet access

Home Premium / Business / Ultimate:

1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor

1 GB of system memory
40 GB hard drive with at least 15 GB of available space
Support for DirectX 9 graphics with 128 MB of graphics memory (minimum)
32 bits per pixel resolution monitor
DVD-ROM drive
Audio Output
Internet access

Won't Vista come on a new computer? All PCs made after January 2007 come with Windows Vista already installed. The caution here is to pay the few extra bucks to order the upgrade to the Windows Vista Home Premium version and not order the lame Basic version. If you opt for Basic, you'll later regret it.

Which of the four versions of Vista should you get?* Unlike Windows XP, where home users often had to opt for the Professional version over the Home version in order to get the functionality needed to work at home, Vista doesn't offer anything similar at this time. There are four Vista consumer versions available for purchase by individuals:

1. Vista Basic Home is offered to make it appear as if Microsoft's lowest price-point is still comparable to the old Windows XP, but this dumbed-down configuration should be rejected by anyone with a brain (\$100 for the upgrade version and \$199 for the full version)
2. Vista Home Premium is the obvious choice for home use. It includes all the home networking, built-in security, and multimedia functions you've come to expect (\$159 for the upgrade version and \$239 for the full version).
3. Vista Business concentrates on small business networking and isn't really suitable for home use because it has no multimedia (movies, CDs, etc) capabilities. (\$199 for the upgrade version and \$299 for the full version).
4. Vista Ultimate is the version that contains all the upgrades and bells and whistles you will see in the Vista ads and a whole bunch of stuff most of us will never use. It will do it all, at a cost (\$259 for the upgrade version and \$399 for the full version).

* There is also an Enterprise volume-license version that is available only to large companies.

Why is Internet Explorer 7 So Slow?

By Dennis Fraser

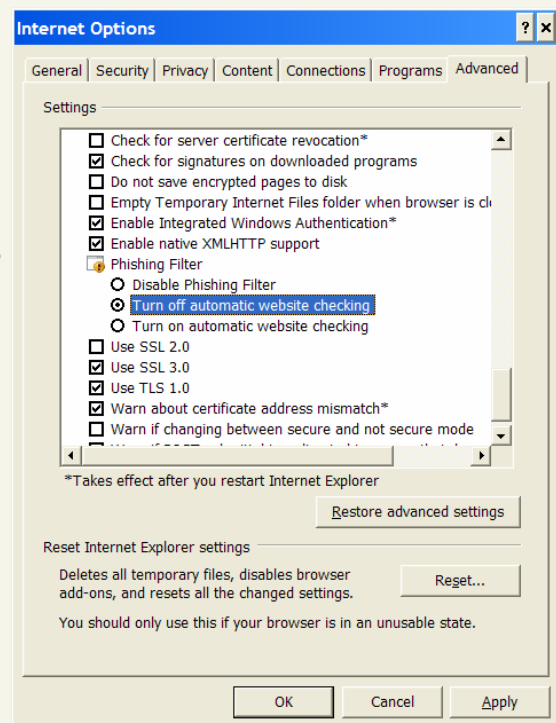
By now, many of you adventurous souls have tried the new Internet Explorer 7. One of the many new features in IE7 is a built-in Phishing Filter that provides real-time protection against sites that look legitimate but are actually trying to trick you into divulging your personal information or will, without your knowledge or permission, download spyware and viruses to your machine. When enabled, the Phishing Filter automatically checks its on-line database on the Microsoft servers for a credibility and integrity report for every page IE7 opens. At first glance, enabling the Phishing Filter feature would seem like a very good thing, but we have encountered problems with IE7 responding v-e-r-y slowly when opening or downloading pages. This delay is especially annoying when you know that most of the sites you regularly visit (such as <http://www.hartlandschools.us>) won't be causing any problems. Microsoft has recognized the slowdowns that the Phishing Filter has been causing and on December 12, 2006 released a fix for Windows XP SP2, Windows XP x64 Edition, and Windows Server 2003.



You can download that patch here:
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/928089>

If the patch fix doesn't speed things up for you, you can also disable the Phishing Filter by clicking IE 7's **Tools** button, clicking **Phishing Filter**, and then clicking **Phishing Filter Settings**. This will open the Advanced tab of the Internet Options control panel. Scroll down to the Security section then look for the Phishing Filter sub-section. To completely turn off the Phishing Filter, click **Disable Phishing Filter**. Click **Apply** and **OK**. Hopefully, your pages will once again load normally.

Another option you have is to leave the filter available, but inactive. Click **Turn off automatic Web site checking**. This option will leave you with manual Phishing filter capabilities without it automatically running every time you open a page you know will be good. If you do land on a page you suspect might not be what it seems, click the IE 7 **Tools** button, then click **Phishing Filter**, and click **Check This Website**. You'll receive instant feedback on whether or not the site has been reported as a phishing scam.



Training Corner

What Drives Do I Have Access To and What Are They?

Please click on the “My Computer Icon” to see a list of the drives available to you.

Only the following are unique to your computer,

- **Hard Disk Drives:** local disk C Drive A
- **Devices with Removable storage:** 3 ½ Floppy A
- **Devices with Removable storage:** DVD/CD-RW Drive D

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All of the rest have varying levels of access to the rest of Hartland School Employees, these are Network Drives

- **Hcsshare on Ha_ssc_1\data\Shared' (R)** is the shared folder for the entire district. All items stored in there can be used and accessed by the entire district. Therefore unless you need a document to be seen or accessed by multiple users in different buildings you should not save items here. Also since these documents are meant to be used by many you should not save changes to the documents of others on this drive or delete them.
- **Share on 'Ha_Ces_1\data\Shared'data (S)** is the shared folder for Creekside Elementary. Your specific building will be listed as an abbreviation for your building's shared folder (Lakes would be Ha_Les_1... and so on.) All items stored in this location can be used and accessed by the entire staff of your building and the tech department. Therefore unless you need a document to be seen or accessed by multiple users at your building you should not save items here. Also since these documents are meant to be used by many you should not save changes to the documents of others on this drive or delete them without permission of the original document creator.
- **Your last name on Ha_Ces_1\Data\Users\Teachers\UsherS\ (H)** is the personal folder for Scott Usher on the CES Server. Your specific building will be listed as an abbreviation and my username UsherS will be swapped out with your username. All items stored in there can be used and accessed by only you and the tech department. Therefore when a document is to be used only by you, you should save items here. Also since these documents are not meant to be used by many you may save changes to the documents on this drive or delete them as you see fit. Tech has access only to perform tech related functions and will not delete or change your documents.

Other drives seen here are not to be accessed.

Changing Desktop Icon Spacing in Windows XP

Are the icons on your desktop jammed too closely together? Do you not see the entire name of each icon? Here's how to change that.

- 1) Right-click on your Desktop
- 2) Click Properties
- 3) Click the Appearance tab
- 4) Click Advanced
- 5) Click the Item pull-down menu
- 6) Click Icon Spacing (Horizontal)
- 7) Change the value from the default of 40 or 43 to 64
- 8) Click Apply
- 9) Click OK.

Even though the screen appears to refresh, it never really does it. In order to avoid having to log off and back on, or restart the PC, you can use the Windows screen lock to completely refresh the Desktop display. To do this, you use the Windows key (a flag logo, usually in the bottom row of the keyboard between the left CTRL key and the left ALT key).

- 10) Press Windows-L to lock your screen
- 11) Enter your password
- 12) Click OK
- 13) The icons will now be spaced more widely on your Desktop.