



Technology Tracks

Matrix Business Solutions

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Windows 7 Is On It's Way

Microsoft is moving towards the next generation of Windows for desktops and laptops, called Windows 7. The release is targeted around October of this year. It typically takes time for software providers to support a windows platform after its release, so it would likely be early next year before Windows 7 becomes a viable option. Note that Microsoft has just advised that they plan to continue to provide Windows XP on systems (as a downgrade option) for eighteen more months after releasing the newest version of Windows for desktops.

Time to Update to XP Service Pack 3

It's time to update! Windows XP Service Pack 3 has been out for a year, and Internet Explorer release 8.0 has been out since the middle of March. If you have been holding off, it would be time to move ahead with updating to the new versions.

Windows Vista service pack 2 was released last month. Give this one a couple of months of being out in the field before moving to it.

Microsoft E-mail - Outlook / OE Upgrade

There has been a phishing E-mail going around that notifies users of an Outlook / Outlook Express update from Microsoft. The E-mail notification is not valid – the path says it's going to Microsoft, but it's actually going to a different site. Another clue is that the E-mail refers to Outlook and Outlook Express, but does not contain the release of the software. With Outlook and Outlook Express being separate packages, their updates would be separate and not bundled into one package.

Currently, Microsoft does not distribute updates via E-mail. They may be received via automatic updates, from the update page on their web site, or downloaded independently.

Wireless USB Connection

Need remote access to a USB device? A new item is available that provides a wireless connection between a USB port on a computer and a USB device such as a printer or external hard drive. An adapter that's the size of a flash drive plugs into the computer (or laptop), and a wireless receiver plugs into the USB device (and power). This unit provides the ability to print wirelessly.

Free PDF Writer

Would you like to create PDF files for E-mail or distribution? There are utilities...One is the Cute PDF Writer, which can be downloaded at the link - <http://www.cutepdf.com/Products/CutePDF/writer.asp>

To use the utility, open your document and opt to print it. Instead of selecting your printer, specify to print to the CutePDF printer. It will prompt for a file name – you can browse to the location that you want to save the PDF file, and provide an appropriate name. It will default to the last location used.

Web Winner

Check out www.business.gov, a site provided by the federal government to supply information to small businesses. It includes sources for loans and grants, information on licenses, finance, taxes and contacts at different agencies.

Tips & Tricks

Want to easily zoom in on your Word document to view text or check out details on a picture? You can use the scroll button on your mouse to zoom in and out of documents quickly. Just hold down the <Ctrl> key and roll the scroll wheel forward to get a closer view of the document, or roll it back to shrink it.

Need to Review Your IT Strategy?

If you would like us to review your use of computer systems and make sure that you have the right backups, please call us at (937) 438-5897.