



Technology Tracks with Matrix Business Solutions

January - February 2008

Volume 6, Number 1

Microsoft Windows Server 2008

Microsoft plans to release Windows 2008 Server at their Global Launch Wave event on February 27. It will be available on both 32 bit and 64 bit platforms. It will be the last release of the 32 bit version. Windows 2008 R2, the next release likely in 2009 or 2010, will only be available on 64 bit platforms.

The new version will be the next generation of server software, replacing Windows 2003 Server. It provides an increased security, more features in support of remote connectivity, and better interaction with Windows Vista.

The Winner: Blu-Ray

Earlier this month, Time Warner announced that they would go exclusively with the Blu-Ray format for video discs. This was enough to swing the pendulum in Blu-Ray's favor. Sony saw sales climb 42% during the week following the announcement and Toshiba saw sales of the competing format, HD DVD, dive by 88%.

A single layer Blu-Ray disc holds 25 gigabytes of data, which is more than five times the amount of the current DVD disc.

Eradicating The Spies

Spy-ware is software installed on your system by web sites that you may visit. Some of the sites install the software to attempt to redirect you to other shopping sites or promote their own products. While the very newest in antivirus software is starting to include software that will eliminate spy-ware, most of the older antivirus programs don't include it. There are some free versions out there, including Spy-Bot, Ad-Aware and Windows Defender. Microsoft Vista versions are including Windows Defender, a Microsoft product that will remove spy-ware, for free.

Web Winner

Need to look someone up by phone number, address or name? Check out www.switchboard.com to locate who you're looking for!

Television Broadcasting Drops Analog

At midnight on February 17, 2009, television broadcasting will be done solely via digital, dropping the older analog transmission. This only applies if your receiving television broadcasts through the air (via antenna). It doesn't impact cable or satellite reception.

Televisions that do not have a digital tuner will not be able to receive the broadcast signal. The manual should indicate if the television has a digital tuner, or you can probably find it online at the manufacturer's web site depending on the age of the television.

The move is a business decision by the government. It frees up some very desirable frequencies. As an incentive, the government is providing coupons toward the purchase of two converters per household.

The coupons have a value of \$40 each. To apply for the coupons, go to www.dtv2009.gov. This site also contains information on the program. The coupons were available starting on January 1, 2008. They are available through March 31, 2009 or when they run out of coupons.

HP/Compaq Discounts Per Law Suit

It may have been a while since you've used your floppy disk drive on your computer, but if it's the right model of HP or Compaq, it may be worth some money. There's a law suit in the process of being settled against HP/Compaq for an issue with using the floppy disk drive on certain models. If you have one of the models, you may be entitled to a discount on a new HP/Compaq system and may get a software patch to correct the issue. See www.barrettgrider-v-hpcompaq.com/index.html for details. The Covered Models page lists the affected systems and the patch is found on the Software Patch page.

System Checks

Are your computers slow? We're finding that just adding memory to your computers may help speed them up significantly? Want us to check out your systems? Please call us at 438-5897 and ask for Mark Schneider.