

## Re: Windows Vista – worst OS yet?

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I think all this DRM stuff is going to cause the PC industry to fork at both the hardware and software level. If I want to build applications for the (as yet nonexistent) integrated home multimedia/TV/gaming platform, I'm going to have to comply with the specifications dictated by Hollywood. On the other hand, if I want to build apps for office/engineering/internet use, why should I maintain an expensive DRM compliance infrastructure?

I think the PC will split into two separate architectures:

One, optimized for entertainment systems, will have all of the DRM hardware built in. But, in order to ensure the security of the protected content, the software API will be restricted to 'authorized' applications developers willing to sign all the NDAs, expose their technology to entertainment industry audits and submit to trusted applications digital signing protocols. Access to the internet must be restricted to trusted services, because anything unknown must be assumed to be hostile to the rights of the protected content on the platform.

The other, optimized for productivity, will be an open system, accessible to all developers. The only filtering or blocking will be against known hostile agents (spyware, spam, etc.) but newly developed apps or protocols will be allowed and assumed to be benign until proven otherwise. The hardware need not have protected data paths with encryption (and the performance penalties that implies) because the content hosted on the system is assumed to be owned (or made available to) the system's users with little or no restriction. Securing users from access to their own content is pointless. Tools and documentation for development on such a platform will be freely available and bear no onerous licensing restrictions. The barriers to entry for software developers on such a system will be much lower than those for the secure platform in terms of both cost and up front licensing requirements. So, for applications that don't require DRM, their cost and time to market will be much lower.

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Hit any user to continue.

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