

Re: Microsoft making vendors remove drivers

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- *From:* Jeff Liebermann <jeffl@xxxxxxxxxx>
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On Thu, 19 Jun 2008 23:22:00 -0700 (PDT), JeffM <jeffm_@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Jeff Liebermann wrote:

Incidentally, MS is still back pedalling on killing off Vista.

Dell no longer offers only XP on their products. However, they offer something called "transition", where XP is pre-installed, but a Vista SP1 license and CD is included for eventual "upgrade".

http://www.dell.com/content/topics/global.aspx/sitelets/solutions/software/business/xp_smb?c=us&cs=

I haven't checked if the price was jacked up to include both licenses.

You're over 24 hours behind Slashdot.

"\$50 to Get XP On a New Dell"

<http://tech.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=08/06/18/1441230&threshold=5&mode=nested>

There are a few inviolate rules in the universe. Gravity attracts, radioactive elements decay, politicians raise taxes, and Microsoft never really gives anything away for free. Thanks for the verification.

<<http://computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9099178>>

I'm also wondering if Dell timed the demise of XP to coincide with the night of the full moon is coincidental or satirical.

Once upon a time, I was involved with SCO and the transition from Xenix to ODT (Open Desktop 3.2 Unix). That was about 1989. It was very difficult to get people to switch from a known stable product, to a more capable, but far more complex product. Numerous attempts to kill of Xenix failed usually as a result of dealer revolts. History repeated itself again with the ODT to OSR5 transition (about 1995) and again with the OSR5 to UW7 transition. Basically, customers and dealers are not thrilled with new and improved, if it costs them time, money, disk space, rewriting drivers, and recoding apps.

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One would think that Microsoft would have learned from the Windoze 3.1 to Windoze 95 transition. However, that wasn't much of a lesson. Windoze 3.1 was an unstable piece of crap, and the initial release of Windoze 95 wasn't much better. Going from one disaster to another was fairly easy. Going from Windoze 98 to Windoze 2000 was a shocker, but MS had the interim version of NT3.5 and NT4 to get the users accustomed to how it worked. NT was so much better than 95, that it went amazingly smoothly (but slowly). It was functional because MS didn't kill off Windoze 98 during the transition. They even released an update in the form of Windoze ME *after* W2K to placate the Neanderthals while they got W2K running.

Alas, that's not the way Vista was released. No more maintaining the old operating system while the new one gets up to speed. This was going to be a dump everything you own, throw out all your old "incompatible" hardware, and migrate to the next big thing. I'm sure some brilliant marketing type is now collecting his bonuses based on the wonderful way Vista has been received by the GUM (great unwashed masses). I'm not sure what MS was thinking, but a fast look at their own history, and those of other operating system transitions should have given them the clue that this was not going to be very smooth.

I just got a call from a customer wanting to buy a new Dell laptop. I have him the \$50 transition option. His answer was "\$50 for a parachute is cheap. Buy XP". I think that sums it up. He has a variety of legacy insurance rating applications that are known to blow up running on Vista. He needs XP. I was planning on doing a dual boot, but my experience with multiple OS's and non-geek customers has not been gratifying. Incidentally, I've now done 9ea Vista to XP downgrades. All were because Vista would not run legacy applications, and the vendors were not interested in patching old apps to run on new iron.

I'm still waiting for evidence that MS is "forcing" vendors to remove XP drivers from their web sites. I can't find anything with Google or on Slashdot.

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