

Re: Intel rejects Vista, will stay with XP and wait for windows7

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- *From:* Le Chaud Lapin <jaibuduvn@xxxxxxxxxx>
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On Jun 27, 10:41 am, Jan Panteltje <pNaonStpealm...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I do not see Balmer as an innovative person, I see him (and how incredible innovative you would have to be to even come close to what happened in the seventies with Bill Gates and that OS), as a man who waves his arms around with a lot of energy, the same sort of energy 'of the apes' that you use when running 100 meters, you think you achieved something and feel really tired, but actually you have moved 100 meters only. I think he cannot stop a 'bust'.

I noticed the same.

One should not underestimate importance of vision when running a company like Microsoft. And by vision, I mean the real kind where a single individual retains precocious clairvoyance in technological development, not the kind where bunch of me-too's lie on the floor in a circle staring at the ceiling, "ideating". [This has to be one of the most ridiculous words I have ever encountered.]

Bill Gates has it. Steve Balmer does not.

Microsoft might eventually go the way of Dell, where the #2 does a #2 on the integrity of the company, until the visionary is reminded that he is not really replaceable, no matter how much he looks forward to retirement. Especially in cases where the CEO's compensation is tied to performance, there are all kinds of tricks that can be done to momentarily hit high numbers at the expense of long-term salvation. Kevin Rollins did this to Dell, and so did 100's of others before him.

But is it their fault? After all, the visionary/founder always has history at his disposal. He knows what will happen if the #2 is allowed to take control. He knows in advance of the character of his #2, that a brutally objective assessment would reveal the true proclivity of the person who has shared an office with him for a decade or more.

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So one should probably blame the visionary/founder for making the mistaking of hoping for the obviously impossible.

In some cases, the visionary CEO will return like a white knight on black horse to salvage that which he has created, as in the case of Michael Dell and Charles Schwab. In some cases, the visionary/founder instinctively understands that he must remain at the helm as long as possible, for it is the essence of his personal character that makes the company what it is, as in the cases of Warren Buffet of Berkshire-Hathaway and Dave Thomas of Wendy's.

But all too often, the visionary/founder is too old, frail, too tired to do anything but lie still and watch his baby get pimped.

–Le Chaud Lapin–

[The opinions herein are mine and mine alone.]

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