

Re: Microsoft tries to polish a turd

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V.I.S.T.A. = Virus Infection and Spyware Transmission Architecture

Dirk Bruere at NeoPax wrote:

Vladimir Vassilevsky wrote:

John Larkin wrote:

High expectations of Microsoft products? Somebody has those?

I remember people standing in the lines in the front of the stores at the release day of Windows 95. MS XBOX and optical mouse caused some hullabaloo, too.

XP is good enough that they should leave it alone. Vista is trying to mimic the Apple OS, but without the programming skills.

Vista is an attempt to do the things finally in the right way, when everything had gone too far for making changes.

Was an attempt.

The attempt was aborted because it was taking too long and a defective product was released with most of the major innovations omitted.

They did, however, have *\*plenty\** of time to implement DRM. The recording

Re: Microsoft tries to polish a turd

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and movie industries, it seems, are more important customers that we are.

DRM is a kernel service in Vista that prevents users from accessing media or using high-end monitors without authorization from the "appropriate" parties. Vista grants third-parties the right to irrevocably alter policies and disable functionality on systems in accordance with their own EULAs without warning. Basically, it provides a kernel service that lets signed apps install rootkits and spyware, prohibit you from using competitors products, or monitor your use and charge you for EULA infractions

A few interesting quotes:

"The contentious stealth update that Microsoft delivered to customers this summer blocks 80 patches and fixes from installing after Windows XP is restored using its "repair" feature... The background updates were delivered and installed without prior notification, even when the PC's owner had told the operating system not to download or install updates without notification and permission."

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9039258&pageNumber=1>

"many of Vista's DRM technologies exist not because Microsoft wanted them there; rather, they were developed at the behest of movie studios, record labels and other high-powered intellectual property owners."

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=printArticleBasic&articleId=9005047>

"NBC-Vista copy-protection snafu reminds us why DRM stinks Handfuls of Windows Vista Media Center users found themselves blocked from making recordings of their favorite TV shows this week when a broadcast flag triggered the software's built-in copy protection measures. The flag affected users trying to record prime-time NBC shows on Monday evening, using both over-the-air broadcasts and cable. Although the problem is being "looked into" by both NBC and Microsoft, the incident serves as another reminder that DRM gives content providers full control, even if by accident."

<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080514-nbc-vista-copy-protection-snafu-reminds-us-why-drm-stinks.htm>

Schneier: Do not upgrade to Vista: Security guru Bruce Schneier has given a big thumbs-down to Windows Vista, arguing that the DRM (digital rights management) features built into the new operating system "will make your computer less reliable and less secure."

The celebrated cryptographer, who is credited with designing

Re: Microsoft tries to polish a turd

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or co-designing several widely used encryption algorithms, is calling on consumers to send a message to Microsoft by avoiding Vista entirely.

"[The] only advice I can offer you is to not upgrade to Vista. It will be hard. Microsoft's bundling deals with computer manufacturers mean that it will be increasingly hard not to get the new operating system with new computers. And Microsoft has some pretty deep pockets and can wait us all out if it wants to. Yes, some people will shift to Macintosh and some fewer number to Linux, but most of us are stuck on Windows. Still, if enough customers say no to Vista, the company might actually listen," Schneier wrote in an essay posted at his personal blog.

His argument is that Microsoft has succumbed to the entertainment industry and built copy-protection (DRM) schemes into the OS that will make computers less stable and force customers to spend to upgrade peripheral hardware and existing software.

<http://blogs.zdnet.com/security/?p=28>

<http://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2008/02/lockin.html>

MSN Music to shut down, leaving DRM customers in the lurch: Microsoft is ceasing support for its MSN Music service. After August 31, 2008, people who have bought music from the service will no longer be able to move that music to different computers, or even change the operating system on their current computers. With restricted music, every time you move it to a new system, you have to get new approval. Microsoft is shutting down the servers that currently grant that approval, which leaves everyone who bought music from them holding locks with no keys, and no recourse.

<http://www.defectivebydesign.org/blog/1131>

Also see:

<http://cbbrowne.com/info/mslinks.html>

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