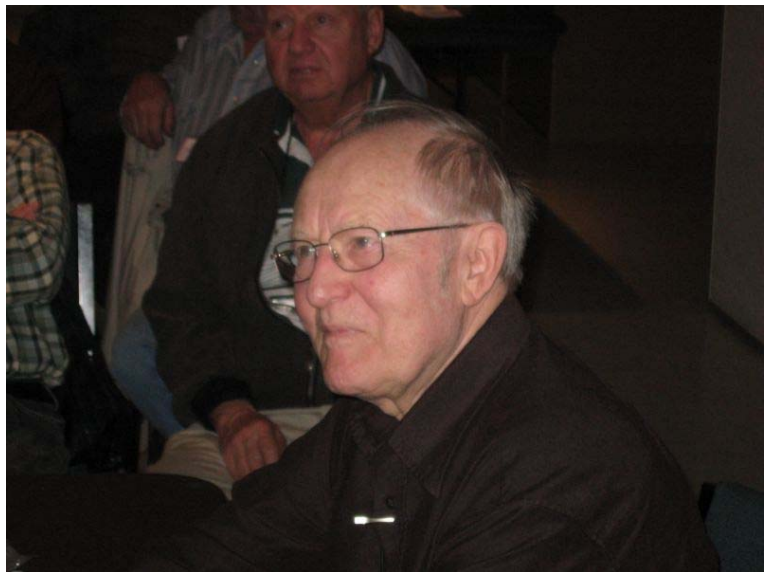


April General Meeting

One of our members, Fred Horn, gave a presentation about Microsoft Vista O/S which has received more than its fair share of negative comments. He felt that it had been victim of poor press and was in fact a good O/S. It comes in three flavours, Basic, Premium and Ultimate. It is most important that the decisions on software and hardware are made before the particular Vista is chosen - and the decision for 32 bit or 64 bit is chosen at the same time. Windows Media Centre is a part of Vista and comes with the package. There are lots of features included in the variations of Vista.

Members using Windows XP will have no support after April 7th. Fred's advice was to get SP3 to add to your system before that date. There was a suggestion that Windows 95 was probably doomed!! Another Microsoft O/S is on its way - Windows 7!! This is still in beta version and will likely not appear until the latter part of this year. As an aside, Windows XP in its flavours has about 56% of installations.



Looking at Home Theatre Unit with Vista – this has to be quiet. There's no merit in having any electronic rumbles, squeaks and whistles in your listening experience. Again, a careful selection of all hardware is necessary. Calculate the distances between the chair and the screen and most important, "How many *clickers* do you need?" This produced a few laughs from the members!! It's not necessary to spend a fortune on cables either.



As usual, we ran out of time. Fred

showed a 1372 page manual for Vista which he was working from and there was so much more to say about the topic. Maybe another session in the future??. Our thanks to Fred for another informative presentation.



Report by Alan Forrest Pictures by Steve Wawrykow