



# The Paper Modem

March 2006 Volume 6 Issue 2

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## Microsoft Boxes up Vista

By [Ina Fried](#), CNET News.com  
Published on [ZDNet News](#): February 26, 2006

Although it is still working to finish the code for Windows Vista, Microsoft has reached a decision on which versions of the operating system to offer.

Microsoft has settled on six versions, including an Ultimate edition that will combine the best of the company's corporate and consumer features. The company is aiming to have all of the versions ready for launch in the second half of this year.

"We're really trying to make sure we have



the right set of offerings for different customers," said Barry Goffe, a director in Microsoft's Windows client unit.

Consumers will also be able to buy either Vista Home Basic or Vista Home Premium, in addition to the Ultimate edition, while businesses will be able to choose Vista Business or, if they have a volume licensing deal, they can opt for a higher-end Vista Enterprise edition. Microsoft also plans a Vista Starter edition that will be sold only on new PCs in emerging markets.

The final versions that Microsoft is announcing on Monday are similar to the

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If you can't convince them, confuse them.

*(Continued from page 1)*

ones Microsoft has long been considering, with one exception; there is not a version specifically for small businesses. Instead, Microsoft is adding a number of small business features, including advanced backup and additional tutorials, as part of its Vista Business edition.

Microsoft is also doing away with the notion of Media Center and Tablet PC as distinct flavors of the operating system, as was the case with Windows XP.

With Vista Home Premium and Vista Ultimate, consumers will be able to buy a machine that has both Media Center and Tablet PC capabilities. Tablet PC functions will also be included in Vista Business and Vista Enterprise.

With Windows XP, Goffe said, people "really have to compromise."

"Either I get all the great media experience or I get all of the mobility features," he said. "What if I want a great home experience and a great business experience?"

Goffe said that Windows Vista Ultimate is Microsoft's answer to that question. "More and more customers are using the same PC at work and at home, particularly small businesses," he said. "We are delivering an offering that brings everything together." Ultimate combines features from

the Enterprise and Premium versions.

Another of the new packages for Microsoft is Windows Vista Enterprise, which is limited to customers that have a Software Assurance contract or an Enterprise Agreement licensing plan and adds several features that won't be in the standard business version.

It will include two features designed to help with compatibility issues. This means a new subsystem that can run Unix Applications and Virtual PC express and a limited version of Microsoft's emulation software that will allow Vista enterprise users to run an older version of Windows as a virtual machine.

Vista Enterprise will also have built-in support for BitLocker, an encryption feature that prevents others from accessing data if a PC is lost or stolen. BitLocker is also available in Vista Ultimate, which includes all of the features of Vista Business and Vista Home Premium.

Microsoft has been planning for some time to offer higher-end versions of its OS with Vista. CEO Steve Ballmer first noted that an Enterprise version was coming at a financial analysts' meeting last summer. Microsoft had also long hinted that with Vista, customers would be able to buy a machine that had both Tablet and Media Center features.

On the consumer side, the Home Basic

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Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

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version will have most of the searching and security features, but won't be able to do the advanced "Glass" graphics effects that are part of Vista's Aero user interface.

The basic version, which is aimed at low-end PCs and very price-conscious buyers,

also won't have the same music and media-center abilities of Home Premium

Vista Screenshots can be seen at the following website:

<http://www.only4gurus.com/v3/longhorn.asp>



## A Vista for all seasons

Microsoft has decided to offer six distinct versions of the Windows update. Here they are from simplest to most tricked -out.

### Version

### Description

#### Windows Vista Starter

Sold only on new PCs in emerging markets such as India and Thailand. Runs only on 32-bit machines, and will be able to handle only a limited number of programs at a time.

#### Windows Vista Home Basic

Comparable to XP Home. Has the security and search abilities particular to Vista, but does not offer its fancy graphics or high-end media features.

#### Windows Vista Home Premium

A higher-end option for consumers. Adds support for Vista's new graphics as well as Media Center and Tablet PC features.

#### Windows Vista Business

Similar to XP Professional. It's the mainstream corporate OS; also contains extra tools for small businesses.

#### Windows Vista Enterprise

Available only to customers with volume licenses. Includes all of the features of Vista Business, with the addition of encryption, Unix services and virtual machine capabilities.

#### Windows Vista Ultimate

Combines the features of Windows Vista Enterprise and Windows Vista Home Premium to offer the highest-end version of Windows yet.

*Submitted by: Y.Bulger*



Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.



## Tips & Tricks

### Windows XP: Clean the Start Menu

The Windows XP Start menu is populated with a number of extra links courtesy of Microsoft.

At the top there are links to the Internet and E-mail programs; these default to the Microsoft programs.

Under those two shortcuts, we find the "Most frequently used" programs list. But when you start using other programs, you'll notice that Microsoft has given its own "head start."

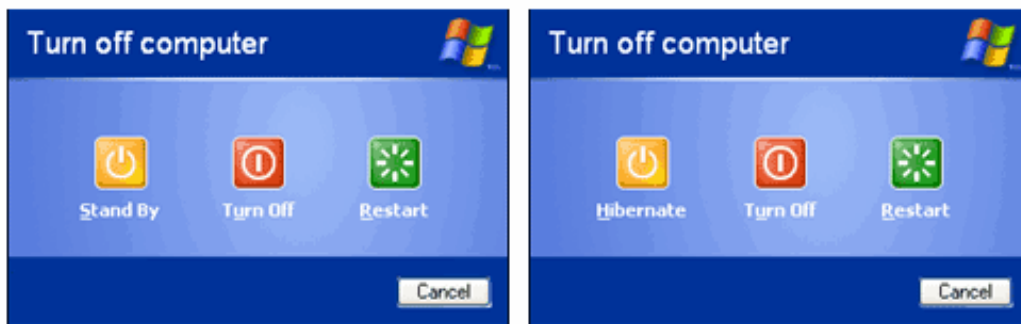
It is, however, easy enough to remove a program from this list: just **right-click** on the program you want to remove, and from the menu select **Remove from This List**.

When you right-click, you might also note that **Pin to Start menu** is an option. When you select that option, the shortcut will be moved to the top of the Start menu, directly below the E-mail link. You can also **remove a program** that was pinned to the Start menu by right-clicking, and choosing **Unpin from Start menu** (which will restore it to its position on the lower part of the start menu), or choosing **Remove from This List**, which will remove it completely from the Start menu.

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### Display Hibernate Option on the Shut Down dialog

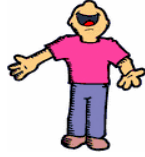
For some reason, Hibernate isn't available from the default Shut Down dialog. But you can enable it simply enough, by holding down the SHIFT key while the dialog is visible. Now you see it, now you don't!



*Submitted by: Greg Wilson*



Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.



## Just for Laughs



A truck driver, hauling a tractor-trailer load of computers, stops for a beer. As he approaches the bar, he sees a big sign on the door that says, "COMPUTER NERDS NOT ALLOWED - ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!" He enters and sits down.

The bartender comes over to him, sniffs, and says that he smells kind of nerdy. He then asks him what he does for a living. The truck driver explains to him that he drives a truck, and the smell is just from the computers he is hauling. The bartender serves him a beer and says, "OK, truck drivers aren't nerds."

As he is sipping his beer, a skinny guy walks in wearing a pair of glasses with tape around the middle, a pocket protector with twelve kinds of pens and pencils, and a belt that is at least a foot too long. The bartender, without saying a word, pulls out a shotgun and blows the guy away. The truck driver asks him why he did that.

The bartender replied, "Don't worry. The computer nerds are in season because

they are overpopulating Silicon Valley. You don't even need a license."

So the truck driver finishes his beer, gets back in his truck, and heads for the freeway. Suddenly, he veers to avoid an accident, and the load shifts. The back door breaks open and computers spill out all over the road. He jumps out and sees a crowd already forming, snatching up all of the computers. The scavengers are comprised of engineers, accountants and programmers - computer geeks. Each of them wearing the nerdiest clothes he has ever seen.

He can't let them steal his whole load. So remembering what happened in the bar, he pulls out his gun and starts blasting away, killing several of them instantly. A highway patrol officer comes zooming up and jumps out of the car screaming at him to stop.

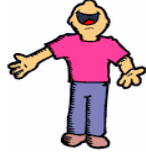
The truck driver said, "What's wrong? I thought computer nerds were in season."

"Well, sure," says the patrolman, "But you can't bait 'em!"

*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups.



## Just for Laughs

### 12 Steps for The Recovering Web Addict

- 1) I will have a cup of coffee in the morning and read my PAPER newspaper like I used to, before the Web.
- 2) I will eat breakfast with a knife and fork and not with one hand typing.
- 3) I will get dressed before noon.
- 4) I will make an attempt to clean the house, wash clothes, and plan dinner before even thinking of the Web.
- 5) I will sit down and write a letter to those unfortunate few friends and family that are Web-deprived.
- 6) I will call someone on the phone who I cannot contact via the Web.
- 7) I will read a book... if I still remember how.

8) I will listen to those around me about their needs and stop telling them to turn the TV down so I can hear the music on the Web.

9) I will not be tempted during TV commercials to check for email.

10) I will try and get out of the house at least once a week, if it is necessary or not.

11) I will remember that my bank is not forgiving if I forget to balance my checkbook because I was too busy on the Web.

12) Last, but not least, I will remember that I must go to bed sometime... and the Web will always be there tomorrow!

*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



Microsoft

1978



Would you  
have  
Invested?



Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at math



# Bits of PC News

## Coming soon: The 8-terabyte desktop

By Michael Kanellos  
Staff Writer, CNET News.com

You can never be too rich, be too thin or have too much hard drive capacity, according to VoodooPC.

The gamer PC specialist later this year will launch a desktop PC with 16 hard drives, according to Raul

Sood, VoodooPC president.

In all, the system will be capable of holding eight terabytes of data. That's the same amount of information you could store on the paper from 400,000 trees, according to a UC Berkeley research study. Academic research libraries typically contain about 2TB of data.

Rest of this story:  
<http://cnews.com.com>

Submitted by: Y. Bulger

## Virus makes leap from PC to PDA

By Joris Evers  
Staff Writer, CNET News.com

A group of security researchers claims to have found the first virus that can jump to a mobile device after infecting a PC.

The malicious software, dubbed "Crossover," was sent anonymously to the Mobile Antivirus Researchers Association, the group said in a statement released on Monday. The virus is a proof-of-

concept bug and was not released in the wild, meaning that it doesn't pose an actual risk for PC and device users.

"Crossover is the first malware to be able to infect both a Windows desktop computer as well as a PDA running Windows Mobile for Pocket PC," the research group said.

Rest of this story:  
<http://cnews.com.com>

Submitted by: Y. Bulger

## Olympus EVOLT E-330: first DSLR with Live LCD

January 31st 2006 | Posted in Digital Camera Technology by Leon Huang

It sure took them long. Before Olympus EVOLT E-330 DSLR, the best that DSLR users could do is look at photos only after they're taken. So unlike point-and-shoot cameras, taking a photo requires using the viewfinder. Not that using a viewfinder is bad, it's a great handholding technique. But still, there are times when you just want to point-and-

shoot with the LCD.

The 2.5-inch LCD is adjustable, providing 160-degrees of viewing angle and allowing you to shoot over a crowd or held at the hips. Another great feature of this camera is the Olympus' Dust Reduction System. It removes dust in front of the camera sensor with ultrasonic technology that does 35,000 vibrations a second.

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



Better to understand a little, than to misunderstand a lot.



## Apple Puts Intel Inside Mac Mini

February 28, 2006 By David Needle - Enterprise

CUPERTINO, Calif. -- Apple's CEO Steve Jobs took the wraps off a few of what he called "medium-scale" announcements at an event here at Apple's headquarters.

On the Macintosh side Apple (Quote, Chart) added to its Intel-powered lineup with a Mac mini based on Intel's Core Solo processor and also a version based on Intel's dual-core Core Duo.

Jobs said both systems are faster than the earlier Mac minis based on the PowerPC G4, 2.5 times faster for the Core Solo unit and five times faster for the Core Duo-based Mac mini, according to industry Spec benchmarks he referenced.

### *The Intel-powered Mac mini*



The Core Solo Mac mini, with 512 MG of RAM, is priced at \$599 while the Core Duo system is priced at \$799. Both are available now.

Jobs noted that with the latest Mac minis, Apple has now moved 50 percent of its product to Intel processors since January. Apple intends to move all of its desktop

and portable systems to Intel processors by the end of this year.

The Mac minis now come with Apple's Front Row software for easy access to various media such as photos, music and video.

Front Row also includes "Bonjour" software, part of the company's push into the so-called digital living room. Systems loaded with Bonjour recognize each other automatically, wirelessly or wired, and can share files.

The new Mac mini, a square box that measures the same 2.5 inches high by six inches wide as the original, is a bit quieter and loads faster.

For iPod fans, Apple introduced the iPod Hi-Fi, a "home stereo quality" speaker system for the iPod.

"It's home stereo reinvented for the iPod age," said Jobs, who is a self-described audiophile.

The iPod Hi-Fi includes a universal dock for connecting any of the iPods shipped to date. The dock is built into the top of the iPod Hi-Fi, a rectangular unit, which is slightly bigger than a toaster.

The iPod Hi-Fi has an integrated power supply so there is no separate brick hanging off the power



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Don't be irreplaceable; if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

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cord. The iPod Hi-Fi, available now, is priced at \$349 and can run on six D batteries.



iPod Hi-Fi

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



### NASA Working Toward May Shuttle Launch

By David McAlary - Washington—28 February 2006

The U.S. space agency NASA says it sees no technical problems preventing a resumption of space shuttle flights in May.

But it has not formally assigned a launch date yet as it works to eliminate as much dangerous falling debris from shuttle external fuel tank as possible.

A barge carrying the external fuel tank for the next shuttle flight is floating across the Gulf of Mexico toward the Florida launch site from NASA's tank assembly facility in Louisiana. To NASA launch director Michael Leinbach, it is an important step toward a May launch of the orbiter Discovery. "In general, we're just really glad to get another piece of flight hardware here, and it will be one more step closer to the

launch," he said.

This time, the external fuel tank is covered with a lot less hard insulating foam than previous shuttle tanks. The reduction is part of the long effort to cut the amount of foam that peels away and threatens the vehicle during lift-off.

A chunk weighing about one kilogram came off the orbiter Columbia during launch three years ago and pierced a wing. This led to the deaths of seven astronauts when the shuttle disintegrated during the searing heat of re-entry.

During the two-year flight moratorium that followed, NASA tried to solve the problem by eliminating some foam and applying it better in other places. But more pieces broke off Discovery's fuel tank last July, causing another cessation of flights.

Now, shuttle program manager Wayne Hale says NASA has eliminated several more areas of the insulation in the hope

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A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

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that any pieces that do fly away will be tiny, weighing no more than a few grams. "Foam will still come off the tank after we have done all these mitigation efforts. What we have done is worked off all the large pieces and we believe that pieces that come off will be small," he said.

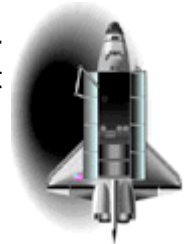
But before a May shuttle launch is approved, NASA engineers say they will conduct wind tunnel tests to determine whether the fuel tank modifications are safe.

Hale says technicians are also assessing whether a tiny piece of debris lodged in a shuttle main engine filter screen could catch fire during launch. If so, it must be removed in a delicate time-consuming process. But launch director Leinbach says the work could be finished in time for a May liftoff. "If we run into a significant tech-

nical issue, we don't have much time to resolve it, obviously. But I feel personally very good about the schedule," he said.

NASA hopes to launch three shuttles this year to resume assembly of the International Space Station. President Bush has ordered the agency to finish construction and disband the shuttle fleet by 2010. It is also to develop a successor to the shuttle that will play a role in returning crews to the moon by 2020.

Wayne Hale says the agency is working hard to resolve the shuttle foam problem so it can meet that schedule. "Clearly you can't have many more big, long stand-downs and accomplish the number of flights that it's going to take to assemble the International Space Station by that date," he said.



*Submitted by: G. Bulger*

## Sony Introduce Next Generation of VAIO Notebooks

*Thu 02 Mar 2006*

Singapore, 1 March 2006 - Sony Singapore has revealed the next generation of PC portability with the new models in its VAIO Personal Computer TX-series.

The VAIO TX is available in high-tech Sapphire Black (VGN-TX27GP/B), metallic copper (VGN-TX27GP/T) and platinum white (VGN-TX26GP/W), targeted for business users. This new metallic copper col-

our in the VAIO range of notebooks is a first for Singapore. It targets individuals who appreciate originality and smart, stylish tools.



Despite its slim dimensions, the latest VAIO TX-series offers up to 8.5 hours of mobile power on a single battery charge, making it the ultimate choice for frequent travelers and mobile professionals.

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**A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance.**

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The VGN-TX27GP is powered by an Intel Centrino Mobile Technology with Intel Pentium M Processor Ultra Low Voltage 753 (1.20GHz) while the VGN-TX26P comes with an Intel Centrino Mobile Technology with Intel Pentium M Processor Ultra Low Voltage 733 (1.10GHz). The VAIO TX enable users to enjoy the power of Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 900.

VAIO TX adopts Sony's newly developed White LED technology for an ultra-slim and lightweight design. The Glass Cell and System Board of the LCD have both been made slimmer and lighter than conventional models to maximize the mobility of the new VAIO TX. Its unique carbon fibre materials also offer outstanding durability in a compact design so users can enjoy a hassle-free journey.

All the TX models are supplied with Microsoft Windows XP Professional with Service

Pack 2 (English Version) and Multilanguage User Interface (pre-installed Traditional Chinese). A full complement of Sony multimedia applications are bundled, including SonicStage Mastering Studio software for managing music in a variety of formats and Click to DVD software for easy one-click DVD mastering.

*Submitted by: G. Bulger*



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## Gadget of the Month

### Candle flame with LED glow

LED, the most geek-friendly light source, these candles can be used with or without flame and have a burn time of about 14 hours.

Available: <http://www.thinkgeek.com/>

*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



The End ...