

Windows7 Secrets

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Definitions

- Wikipedia defines SOFTWARE BLOAT as “a term used to describe the tendency of newer computer (systems) to have a larger installation footprint, or have many unnecessary features that are not used by end users, or just generally use more system resources than necessary, while offering little or no benefit to its user...”
- Merriam-Webster defines MINIMALIST as “one who favors restricting the powers of an organization or achievement of a set of goals to a minimum.”

What is Windows7?

- Microsoft calls Windows7 “the 7th version of Windows” released to the market.)
- Does anyone remember Windows version 3.1 or 95?
- PCWorld blog describes Vista as “XP with a lot of bloat!”
- It also describes Windows7 as “XP with a lot more bloat!”
- Some BLOAT called “New Features” by Microsoft!
- Bloat slows your run/response speeds, requires more hardware resources and greater operator intervention (e.g. the infamous USER ACCOUNT CONTROL.)

SECRET #1

- **HEY MICROSOFT!**
We doan need no
steenkin bloat!

SECRET #2

- You can install a minimalist version of Windows7 without all Microsoft's NEW FEATURES (bloat) at LOWER COST.
- Then SPEED IT UP FURTHER by running one program recommended by PCWORLD to cut the bloat even further!
- If you desire additional features, you can install 3rd party software (usually free.)

Case in point

- Microsoft has 2 versions of Windows7 in which Windows Media Player 12 has been crippled so it DOES NOT PLAY DVDs.
- These versions are Windows7 Home Basic (not for sale in the US) and Windows7 Starter (currently only available with NETBOOK HARDWARE.)
- These versions have been further crippled so that previous Microsoft versions of Windows Media Player CANNOT BE LOADED.
- There are excellent 3rd party DVD PLAYER software available for free download.
- See Media Player Classic.

SECRET #3: Before you install Winows7

- IMPORTANT: Google, download and run Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor from Microsoft to find out whether Windows7 will run and what problems are involved, like incompatible drivers, hardware or software. Note: This program will check for problems that will hang up your Windows 7 installation. FIX THEM BEFORE YOU INSTALL WINDOWS 7.
- Plan on installing a minimum of 2GB RAM.
- If you don't have it, get a DVD-RW drive for your PC.
- Forget about upgrading your old OS, back up your data and get out the application software CDs and DVDs.
- Recommendation: Plan on purchase of new PC with Windows7 or doing a CLEAN INSTALL (reformat of HD on old PC) for Windows7.
- Copy MY DOCUMENTS folder from old PC to Flash Memory or DVD.

Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor

- No, you probably won't be able to use your old document scanner with Windows 7 either.
- Yes, there are certain of your old XP programs (such as vTuner Plus) that didn't run under Vista and won't run under Windows 7 either.
- One More time... Check the output report from Windows Upgrade Advisor and FIX or ABANDON your hardware & software problems.

Selecting the right Windows7 version

- 18 versions of Vista were available.
- 12 versions of Windows7 are available, only 8 should reasonably be considered:
 - Home Basic –non-US (32bit only)
 - Starter -Netbook only(32bit only)
 - Home Premium (32bit & 64bit)
 - Professional (32bit & 64bit)
 - Ultimate (32bit & 64bit)
 - (There are also some non-US versions, large commercial versions and Starter versions you probably don't want to buy.)

SECRET #4: Software Prices

| | | Microsoft <u>Retail</u> | <u>OEM</u> | <u>Street</u> |
|----------------|----------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| • Home Basic | -full | | (not available in the US) | |
| • Starter | -full | | (sold with Netbook only) | |
| • Home Premium | -full | 199.99 | 110.00* | 104.82*** |
| • Home Premium | -upgrade | 119.99 | | |
| • Professional | -full | 299.99 | 140.00* | 134.99*** |
| • Professional | -upgrade | 199.99 | | |
| • Ultimate | -full | 319.99 | 190.00* | 179.98*** |
| • Ultimate | -upgrade | 219.99 | | |

Notes: * see Newegg.com
** see Amazon.com
*** see OutletDeal.com

SECRET #5: Why both 32 & 64bit OSs?

- Most newer PCs are 64bit CPUs with X2, X3 or X4 multiple core processor that will run either 32 or 64 bit OSs
- 32bit OSs can only access 3.2GB RAM max
- Some 64bit OSs can access up to 192GB RAM
- 64bit OSs are not faster than 32bit OSs unless you add more RAM

SECRET #6: More expensive OSs have more Bloat

- Windows7 Ultimate
 - Aero Glass
 - Windows DVD player
 - Windows DVD maker
 - XP mode
 - Lots of other BLOAT features
- They can also address more RAM

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-------|
| – Home Basic | 32bit only | 3.2GB |
| – Home Premium | 64bit | 16GB |
| – Professional or Ultimate | 64bit | 192GB |

Secret #7

- To speed up your PC, TURN OFF as much bloat as possible and add as much RAM as possible.
- After a Windows7 install, Google, download and run VISTA4EXPERTS program (see 50 Tools To Speed Up Your PC in PCWORLD.)
- It turns off Gadgets, AERO GLASS and 20 features.
- It turns off the dreaded USER ACCOUNT CONTROL (also known as Mother May I.)

Secret #8

- Install and update a good Anti-virus such as AVG9-FREE and set up to run the update and scan weekly when PC is ON.
- Install and update a good Anti-spyware such as PC Tools Spyware Doctor or Webroot Spysweeper and set up to scan weekly when PC is ON.
- Turn on and run Windows Update, Automatic update.
- Reinstall all application programs from original disks.
- Reinstall MY DOCUMENTS from backup.

Secret #9

- Purchase a copy of a Windows 7 manual from Half.com for reference if needed.
- Keep your system clean.
- Google, download, install and run the following weekly maintenance programs:
 - Cleanup!
 - Ccleaner
 - Advanced SystemCare

Secret #10

- Set up desktop icon for Accessories>System Tools>Disk Cleanup.
- Set up desktop icon for Accessories>System Tools>Disk Defragmenter.
- Run the above and include as part of your weekly maintenance routine.

Additional Windows7 tech resources to optimize Windows7 performance

- <http://windows7.iyogi.net/features/performance/httpwindows7-iyogi-netfeaturesperformancea-few-tips-to-optimize-windows-7-performance>
- <http://www.pcworld.com/search?qt=windows+7>
- <http://tweaks.com/articles/39655/fine-tune-windows-7-on-netbooks/>
- [http://www.maximumpc.com/article/features/20/windows 7 tweaks tips %E2%80%93 every secret uncovered date](http://www.maximumpc.com/article/features/20/windows%207%20tweaks%20tips%20%E2%80%93%20every%20secret%20uncovered%20date)
- http://news.cnet.com/8301-13860_3-10423985-56.html

Summary

- Choose minimalist version of Windows7.
- Run Windows7 Upgrade advisor and FIX ALL THE PROBLEMS.
- Increase RAM memory.
- Backup MYDOCUMENTS.
- Do CLEAN INSTALL of Windows7.
- Run Vista4experts.
- Reload MYDOCUMENTS backup and desired application software.
- Load a good Anti-virus and Anti-spyware.
- Run Windows Update.
- Run weekly system maintenance.