

Windows Vista: How do you like me so far?

I've been trying to come up with a brilliant column on the new version of Windows, Windows Vista. But each time I sit down to start typing, reality pops up and says, "Vern, you know NOTHING about Windows Vista. You really should install it on your laptop and get to know it."

My laptop is about a year and a half old, and there is not a hope that Windows Vista will run on it. (Hahaha, welcome to planned obsolescence.)

So here's what I know so far:

Windows Vista will require a minimum of 15GB of free hard drive space, it will run on 512MB of RAM but just barely, you better plan on having at least 1GB of RAM. You will also need a DVD drive and a good video card. This is where my laptop totally lets me down. My video card will not support the new "Windows Aero" (the tiled look of having screens "flip" by onscreen arranging them in the same fashion as pieces of paper.) I can free up some hard drive space, I can install more RAM, I have a DVD drive BUT, it is impossible to upgrade the video card on a laptop computer. So in fact, I CAN install Windows Vista on my laptop but I won't get the "really cool flippy windows" that I want.

If you want to check to see if YOUR computer will support Windows Vista download the tool called Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor from www.microsoft.com/windowsvista.

This is a program you will have to download and install on your computer, it will then scan your computer and tell you where your computer will fail if you try to upgrade. My summary opinion is (for those of us who haven't "hot-rodged up" our computers with maximum RAM, maximum video card and maximum hard disk space) that we may as well just buy a new computer if we want Windows Vista.