



# Software Emporium

10308-10th Ave,  
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 3T6  
Phone: (250)782-1025  
or call toll free 1-888-782-1025  
Visit [www.softwareemporium.ca](http://www.softwareemporium.ca)

**Serving Peace Country  
Families Computer  
Needs For All  
Occassions!**

Stop in TODAY to check out  
our fall specials and new  
stock! New software  
including Games &  
Productivity Products



**FUJITSU**

**lenovo**

**EPSON**

**OLYMPUS**  
Your Vision, Our Future

## Windows XP, Windows Vista & Windows 7

By Vern Brisbin

I have been asked many times, "Doesn't Windows Vista® have a lot of problems?" when my customers are shopping for a new computer equipped with Windows Vista. Below is my opinion on the three versions of Microsoft Windows.

Windows XP® was released in 2001. It was and still is a very stable version of Windows. Then of course Microsoft wanted to release a new version of Windows showing how progressive they are as a company, and they released Windows Vista in January of 2007. (A little too soon in my opinion) The hardware of the day just wasn't powerful enough to run the new bloated version of Windows. At the time an equivalent computer running Windows XP was much faster than a computer running Windows Vista, and there were many new drivers required to install and run our various printers, scanners, video cards and other hardware.

As time passed computer processors became faster, manufacturers were adding more RAM memory to computers and the hardware manufacturers developed and released new drivers for Vista making it a much more stable and fast operating system.

But the damage had been done, a lot of the public thought of Vista as "problematic". Almost all businesses still ran Windows XP, taking a "if it isn't broke don't fix it" attitude and were in no hurry to upgrade their computers to Vista.

Many computer manufacturers were now creating and releasing computers that came with Windows Vista installed but also came with Windows XP Downgrade CD's. This is the first time in my life I have ever seen that a DOWNGRADE option was used as a selling



feature in any product. This shows clearly that Microsoft and the entire IT community recognized that the general buying public did not want to move to Windows Vista.

Apple® capitalized on this by creating and releasing a great series of television commercials showing that a Macintosh computer was much easier to operate than a computer running Microsoft's Windows Vista. At a retail level we have seen an increase in demand for Mac's like never

before as a result of Microsoft's Vista being recognized as a bloated operating system and the Mac as being seen as lean and easy to use.

Microsoft realized their misstep and fervently worked on finishing and releasing Windows 7®, due out October of 2009. In an effort to keep people buying computers Microsoft has now included, with almost all PC's sold with Windows Vista installed, a coupon allowing the end user to receive for free a copy of Microsoft Windows 7 when it is released this fall. Again, this shows me that Microsoft is scared that the computer buying public will switch to Apple Mac's or just stop buying PC's until the newer better Windows 7 is released.

It's a strange time in the world of Windows right now. There are 3 different versions of Windows being used at this time, XP, Vista, and 7 (in beta release). I've just now read an article that Windows 7 will have a feature called Windows XP Mode. It uses a brand new version of Virtual PC to provide seamless access to Windows XP applications, either through a virtual Windows XP desktop or directly through the Windows 7 desktop. Thanks Microsoft, another patch... great...good luck with that.



## We have a large selection of USB Flash Drives

### Cool Things you can do with a USB Flash Drive

By Vern Brisbin

USB flash drives are compact and easy-to-use devices that are similar in usage to your computer hard drive. USB flash drives slip into your pocket, conveniently on a cord around your neck or on a keychain for ultimate portable storage. Lately, the price of USB flash drives has plummeted to the point where everyone should have at least one of these cool devices. Currently, USB keys are available from 2GB to 64GB in size. Also known as thumb drives or USB memory keys, these handy pocket-sized drives can do more than just store data.

#### Run Portable Applications

You can run many applications or software programs directly from your USB key. OpenOffice is available as a portable application, so is Mozilla Firefox and Thunderbird. When you combine the office suite with the ability to surf and check email, you'll be able to take your most vital computing applications with you wherever you go, right in your pocket. There are many other applications available at [www.PortableApps.com](http://www.PortableApps.com).

#### Boot an operating system

If you want to do more than just run your own applications, you might want to consid-

er booting an entire operating system from your USB flash drive. You can boot either Windows or Linux from a USB flash drive; however, the process is not an exact science



and you may be in for a technical adventure.

#### Manage it

If all you really want to do with your USB flash drive is transport data, and you're running Windows XP, you can do so more efficiently with the Microsoft USB Flash Drive Manager. (Go to [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) then search for USB Flash Drive Manager Download.) Once installed, you can easily copy files to and from your drive, back up and restore the entire flash drive to and from your hard disk, change the drive label, and even create an autorun.inf file to launch Drive Manager automatically when you plug

in the drive.

#### Run a Web site from it

If you are a Web developer, you may be interested to know that with Server2Go, you can easily run a Web server that supports Apache, PHP, MySQL, and Perl right from a USB flash drive. You can use Server2Go right out of the box without any installation. It runs on all versions of Windows, supports most common browsers, and is completely free. To a developer, the benefits of having a portable Web server on a USB drive are numerous. For example, imagine being able to carry a live Web site demo into a sales pitch meeting. For more information about this package, visit the Server2Go site at [www.server2go-web.de](http://www.server2go-web.de).

#### Use it as an MP3 player

Would you like to be listening to music when you're using a computer at the office, but you don't have an MP3 player? If so, you can use a USB flash drive as an MP3 player along with Windows Media Player and a set of headphones. Just copy your MP3 files to your USB flash drive, plug it into your computer, and direct Windows Media Player to build a library of the songs on your drive. You can use all of Windows Media Player's playback features, such as playlists and favourites to easily customize your music listening experience.



## Home Based Business + Software Emporium = SUCCESS!

By Gordon Currie

There isn't a day go by when we are not reading about a home based business (known as HBB) that is making money in the new economy. With job cutbacks and more and more people looking at being closer to their families, an HBB makes sense. But how to get started?

Software Emporium for years has provided a number of products and services for the businessperson looking at operating their business from their home. Here are some examples of how we can help you get started in setting up your home office:

### Computers / Laptops

Most HBB's are computer based and we provide a large selection of equipment to help you get started. For less than \$1000 you can get setup with a system that 2-3 years ago was over \$2500. Next on your list if using a laptop would be a wireless router. With added security, you can now work ANYWHERE in your house or even your backyard and run a business.

### Printers / Scanners

Most home businesses would not be complete without a color printer and scanner. We have a large selection of both and can provide you with a product that is easy to use and setup.

### DVD / CD/ Memory Sticks / Labels

There is no secret that having a supply of DVD/CD's and memory sticks will allow you to back up your work as well as provide copies of projects to clients and co-workers. Need supplies for labelling projects or CDs? We have what you need. Want to print business cards or your own labels? Again, we have a large selection.

### Digital Cameras

Now more than ever, HBB's are finding they simply can't do without a digital camera for

both taking pictures for their websites as well as special promotions. Want to throw up a promotional video onto YouTube® or any of the many other video sharing sites? That's easy with many of the cameras that provide video capabilities. And, we carry a large selection of memory cards for all the popular cameras on the market.

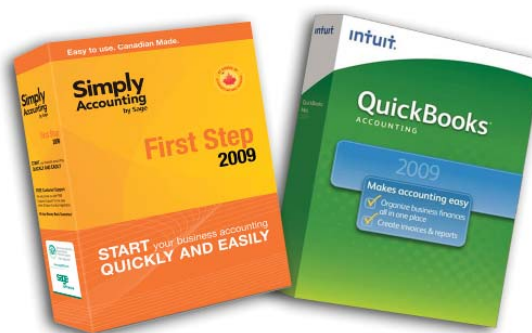
### Productivity Software

Looking for an accounting program or anti-virus software? We have it all. Need a copy of Streets and Trips for upcoming travel plans? Maybe a database to keep track of your customers? We have these products in stock.

### Webcams / Video Conferencing

Its the wave of the future...webinars, video conferencing and live discussions via the Internet. We carry headsets, webcams and all the equipment you need to get started. Have a question about setting up your home office or a technology question? Simply stop by the store and one of our dedicated sales team members or technicians will do our best to get you moving on your new or existing home based business!

See you on the Internet!





**We Offer...The BEST GAMES!**

## Inside Gaming - Out with the Old, In with the...

By Aaron Mamm, Sales Department

A distinct lack of innovation has appeared in the gaming industry as of late. There is the occasional game that tries to do something new, but in many cases they fail to keep up with the current standards for the game's genre. Spore immediately comes to mind. The hype for the game was HUGE. While the game does introduce something new, it fails to perfect the old. The end result is amazing creature creation software and an extremely clumsy and over simplified RTS with little replay value.



Of course on the other hand are people who just stick to the tried and true formulas, and who can blame them. If Starcraft made Blizzard millions of dollars, then why stray?

Starcraft II will undoubtedly sell more copies than many other combined major releases when it becomes available and is there really anything wrong with that? I don't think so.

Blizzard seems to understand the fine line between innovation and alienation with regards to their fan base. Starcraft II will have new units, new technologies, and new graphics, but will likely keep the same Starcraft feel to it. The same goes for Bethesda's Fallout 3. Being a huge Fallout fan, I was pleased to learn my fears of Bethesda destroying the Fallout atmosphere were unfounded, as Fallout 3 still has the distinctive feel its predecessors did.

I suppose the secret to making a successful game is to stick to the tried and true, in addition to implementing enough changes to give the game a fresh breath of life. Of course there will always be room for innovation, but it's easier to take flak for being unoriginal than it is to lose a fortune making gaming software that doesn't sell.



The Grand Prize WINNER from our Back To School Promotion was Pat Finkle. Pictured on the right is Sales Manager Paul Davey presenting Pat and kids with a brand new Acer Aspire One 11.6" Netbook

Watch for more chances to win at Software Emporium as we run regular contests and promos!

Have a question you would like to see answered in our newsletter? A hot topic? Drop us a note at [sales@softwareemporium.ca](mailto:sales@softwareemporium.ca) or call 1-888-782-1025!



# Software Emporium

CALL TOLL FREE

**1-888-782-1025**