
DEER COMPUTER *NEWS*

February 2007

Volume 2 - Issue 1

Quarterly Newsletter of Deer Computer Consulting, Ltd.

In This Issue ...

- 🕒 **Looking Through Windows**
- 🕒 **Foiling Online Predators**
- 🕒 **WiFi Unleashed**

Looking Through Windows - Vista

By Gery L. Deer



The buzz is on about Microsoft's latest attempt to 'wow' users with yet another incarnation of Windows. It seems, however, that the gurus at Microsoft have used the word

'wow' synonymously with the word 'confusing.' In trying to provide features that suit a particular need, Microsoft has made it more difficult to figure out what to buy.

In this latest release the user has a choice between the following versions: Windows Vista Enterprise, Windows Vista Business, Windows Vista Ultimate, Windows Vista Home Premium, and Windows Home Basic. Confused yet? So is everyone else.

The easiest way to break it all down is that Windows Home Premium is probably the version most people will want on their computer. Home Premium is essentially Windows XP Professional with a few more bells and whistles, including added security.

Also included are home-user favorites such as Windows Media Center, Windows Movie Maker, now with high-definition support, and Windows DVD Maker. Windows Vista Business, Enterprise, and Ultimate

versions include tons of nerd-satisfying features for business computer networks, mobile computing, and security settings that the average will probably not use. Advantages to the new system are updated backup features and impressive graphics and video capacity.

Sources also say that Vista is the most stable of the Windows operating systems so far, but that remains to be seen. Windows Vista upgrade packages cost anywhere from \$199 to \$299, depending on the version, with the full installation packages maxing out at about \$399. But is all of this even necessary?

Some computers will have to undergo hardware changes for Vista to work properly and some won't be able to run the new system at all. Here are the recommended system requirements for Windows Home Basic:

- 1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor
- 512 MB of system memory
- 20 GB hard drive with at least 15 GB of available space
- Support for DirectX 9 graphics and 32 MB of graphics memory
- DVD-ROM drive (This is especially noteworthy.)
- Audio Output
- Internet access (fees may apply)

The requirements for Vista Ultimate, Business, and Home Premium are even more involved. Visit deercomputerconsulting.com for complete information.

Historically, it's not a good idea to upgrade to a new package as soon as it hits the shelves. Allow some shakedown time before buying so that the product is out there for several months and more of the inevitable bugs get worked out.

Finally, determine if the need to update is real or just a desire to keep up with the Joneses. The bottom line is, 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it.' For details go to WWW.DEERCOMPUTERCONSULTING.COM. Ω

DEER COMPUTER CONSULTING, Ltd.

A subsidiary of GLD Enterprises & Productions™
3604 N Lake Shore Dr. Jamestown, OH 45335
Ph: (937) 902 - 4857 www.DEERCOMPUTERCONSULTING.COM

L.T. Brown CPA, LLC

- Free Consultation ▪ Tax & Accounting Service
 - Certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor ▪ E-File
 - Individual & Small Business / www.LTBrowncpa.com
-

DEER COMPUTER *NEWS*

February 2007

Volume 2 - Issue 1

Quarterly Newsletter of Deer Computer Consulting, Ltd.

Foiling Online Predators

By Gery L. Deer

Computers are a big part of our everyday lives and they are here to stay. Kids today grow up with a computer in front of them and learn to use them as early as age 2.

The average teenager spends about 2.9 hours online per day. About 63 percent of teens say they use email regularly, compared to 53 percent who say that they use instant message programs.

Do you know what your kids are doing online?

Even though you might not be watching their online activities, you can bet that they are being watched by less desirable cyberspace observers – online predators.

The best way to protect your children from online predators is to take an active part in their computer activities. Too often parents blame the Internet and the computer for a lack of interest in other activities or behavioral problems. In reality, parents have ultimate control over this situation but rarely use it.

You are the parent – so, parent. Just like with television, here's where parents need to knuckle down and say, "Enough," and turn it off.

Some people feel that this model places too much responsibility on the parents. In fact, it sets *all* of the responsibility on them. Parents must ensure the security of their children.

Thanks to modern media, "We can't watch them all the time," becomes the familiar excuse for not being proactive. In their minds, busy parents have no time to

setup Internet security software or move the computer to a more public area of the house.

Will busy parents be able to make time to look for their missing child after she's abducted? That is harsh but realistic.

So what is an 'online predator'? An online predator seeks out children for sinister objectives. The predator will pretend to be someone the child can confide in, luring them out to meet in person with talk of money, gifts, freedom from parents, or other attractive gifts.

Startling statistics: 89% of sexual solicitations were made in either chat rooms or instant messages. An astounding 1 in 5 children between the ages 10-17 has been sexually solicited online. Since 25% of kids online



participate in real time chat and more than 13 million use instant messaging, the risks to children are incalculable. (Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001).

Parents have the obligation to see that these awful situations never take place. Here are some suggestions for managing

what your kids do online.

1. ***Keep the computer in a public area.***
Put the computer in a family area, the living room or dining room area, where it can be plainly visible.
2. ***Don't allow internet use when you are not home or at night.***
Electronically coded lockouts are available but if all else fails, disconnect the modem and take it with you.

Continued on Page 3 ...

DEER COMPUTER CONSULTING, Ltd.

A subsidiary of GLD Enterprises & Productions™
3604 N Lake Shore Dr. Jamestown, OH 45335
Ph: (937) 902 - 4857 www.DEERCOMPUTERCONSULTING.COM

Gary Deer & Sons

Heating, Cooling, & Maintenance
(937) 675-6169



DEER COMPUTER *NEWS*

February 2007

Volume 2 - Issue 1

Quarterly Newsletter of Deer Computer Consulting, Ltd.

3. ***Establish rules for the time spent online.***

Go over your rules and expectations with your kids and then post them next to the computer. If they don't want to follow the rules, they don't get online.

4. ***Install internet software with parental controls.***

Most Internet access software has some sort of parental control – take the time to use it.

5. ***Never post personal information online.***

Photos, phone numbers, school information, and addresses should never ever be posted online.

6. ***Monitor who your kids are chatting with online.***

Predators seek prey in chat rooms and IMs – know who your kids talk to and when.

7. ***Restrict the use of social networking websites.***

The best answer here is, “no online profiles;” and don't give in to the ‘everyone has a MySpace page’ argument.

8. ***Learn about what you don't know.***

Many kids today have surpassed their parents' knowledge. You don't have to be an expert, just learn about the technology your kids are using.

9. ***Educate your kids.***

Discuss your concerns with your kids openly and honestly. Don't assume that they will learn about it at school or from television.

How do you keep the kids safe but also keep from appearing as an overbearing tyrant? That's a difficult question to answer. No matter what Dr. Phil says, it's still your home and your child.

The bottom line is that you set the rules, whether they like it or not. It's our job as parents to maintain their safety even if they don't like it. Don't give in to the whining and breath-holding. It's your house and it's up to you to secure it for you and your family. Ω

NOTEWORTHY ... OR NOT ?

Most computer users spend an average of 35 hours per week sending email, downloading music, watching online video, or surfing the web. An average of 16 hours of that time is spent pirating copyrighted music or viewing pornographic websites.

WiFi Unleashed!

By Gery L. Deer

Wireless internet is cropping up in retail shops all over the country. Coffee shops, bookstores, and even some movie theatres offer free wireless internet connections as a lure for customers.

Retailers have figured out ways to market to you once you've used their 'free' wireless. When you 'agree to the terms of use' at the sign on screen of the retailer's web server, it might be a good idea to read the fine print.

If your computer is not well protected, that server could be mining information from your documents and other data. If that's not bad enough, chances are that you are agreeing to let them! Of course if you don't you don't get to use their service.

Windows has a firewall that is adequate and multiple firewall programs rarely work well together. Consult a technology specialist to help you figure out what will best protect your computer.

Having a good firewall program should keep out prying eyes. Ω



DEER COMPUTER *NEWS*

February 2007

Volume 2 - Issue 1

Quarterly Newsletter of Deer Computer Consulting, Ltd.

Our Mission

At **Deer Computer Consulting, Ltd.** we recognize that it is our responsibility to support the individual as well as the technology. Our consultants can repair computer problems, advise you on purchases and help you streamline your technology so that it better serves your needs.

It is our mission to provide the best technology support possible to the residential and commercial consumer throughout the southwest Ohio area. We will represent the customer's best interests and serve as the personal information technology consultant for each of our clients.

Call today! (937) 902-4857

- 🕒 **On-Site Home & Office Support**
- 🕒 **Upgrades, Repairs, & Optimization**
- 🕒 **New Computer & Accessory Setup**
- 🕒 **Personal Technology Consulting™**

Company Profile

Deer Computer Consulting, Ltd. (DCC) was started in 1998 by Technology Consultant and General Manager, Gery L. Deer. Since that time the company has developed a menu of technical support services that meet the needs of both residential and commercial technology consumers. We bring all of our services to you, so you don't lose time from other work. We work with both Windows and Apple computer systems.

Techno-Babble is a weekly online column written by Gery L. Deer. The column focuses on computer and technology issues that affect the everyday person and is written in plain English. The series is currently offered as an online publication and has been featured in technology publications around the country and in local newspapers such as the Oregon Computer Journal and the Greene County Women's News & Views since 1998. It is a current feature in the Xenia Daily Gazette, Fairborn Daily Herald, and Beavercreek News.

The following articles are online for download.

- Looking Through Windows
- An Ounce of Prevention
- Online Addiction
- Foiling Online Predators
- Online Shopping

Do you have an issue you'd like to have addressed in one of our articles? Send an email to dccnews@deercomputerconsulting.com

Need A Guest Speaker? Call Today!

Deer Computer Consulting, Ltd. can provide your commercial organization with a professional speaker for a nominal fee, and free of charge for non-profit organizations.

Topics available include IT For The Small Business, Online Safety, Identity Theft Prevention, and more.

Speakers tailor the discussion to your organization. Call (937) 902-4857 for further information.