

Windows Makeover

Peter Svennson:

So I've been testing Windows 7 for a few weeks, and I find that it's pretty nice software. It's definitely something to wipe away the bad taste left by Windows Vista when that came out two and a half years ago. Windows 7 is slicker, easier to use, looks better; it's nice all around.

Peter Svennson:

Now, don't get too excited about it, though. I think Windows 7 is a good thing if you're getting a new computer but, for most of us, there's no really good reason to go out and buy a copy of Windows 7 to upgrade an old computer. That said, it does have nice features, so let's take a look at some of them.

Peter Svennson:

The first thing you'll notice is that the Windows taskbar has been given a makeover; instead of, uh, just showing in blocks what programs are running, it now contains icons for your favorite programs. Mousing over the icons shows you which windows are open. You can select them, ah, with the flick of the mouse, or, um, bring them up like this. It's a-a pretty, uh, user-friendly feature. It, uh, copies a little bit of the functionality of, uh, Mac computers, actually.

Peter Svennson:

This isn't really something that's, uh, new to Windows 7. It's been possible to make touch-enabled laptops before, of course. But uh, Microsoft has increased its support for touch capabilities, and a lot of manufacturers are excited about this and are planning to take advantage of it.

Peter Svennson:

Now, if you're running a Windows XP computer, I think you have a lot to gain by going to Windows 7: it looks nicer, it works better. But upgrading an old computer to Windows 7 is not an easy process. Uh, you can stick the Windows 7 disk in there, but it's gonna make a complete new clean install of the operating system: that means you have to reinstall all your old programs. So, the best way to take advantage of Windows 7 is actually to get a new computer, unfortunately. Now, if you're on Windows Vista, you don't have that much to gain from going to Windows 7. It's an easier upgrade process, but it costs 120 dollars. I think that's kind of a lot, and you just don't have that much to gain.

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