

*Microsoft Windows Vista*  
By Larry Magid and Dwight Silverman  
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Revised by Ed Von Halle, ORPCUG

A PC beginner should find this book quite useful for adapting to the Vista operating system. The first two chapters are best read before purchasing the book since they explore whether the reader should acquire Vista or remain with Windows XP. (Several columnists have recommended putting off the upgrading to Vista until more of the compatibility problems have been resolved.)

Of the remaining chapters, about half deal with aspects of the Vista operating system and about half deal with the applications that are bundled with Vista, such as Internet Explorer 7 and the Windows Media Center.

Chapter 3 is an introduction to Vista. It describes the start menu and how to customize it, the uses of the taskbar, how folders and files are organized in Vista, and how to use the Vista Help system.

Chapter 4 describes how to install programs, both from disc and from the Web, on your Vista on your Vista PC.

Chapter 5 describes the Vista search capability.

Chapter 6 discusses Vista security features.

Chapter 7 discusses Backing Up your work with Vista's Backup and Restore Center.

Chapter 8 introduces Gadgets and describes their use and benefits.

Chapter 9 describes Internet Explorer 7

Chapter 10 discusses the management of photographs on your computer using Windows Photo Gallery, a new program included with Vista.

Chapter 11 describes Windows Media Player, Windows Media Center, for installing and playing music on your PC and for playing DVDs. It also describes how to create and edit video projects using Windows Movie Maker.

Chapter 12 describes how to configure and use Windows Mail, Windows contacts, and how to use the Windows calendar.

Chapter 13 deals with the use of the Vista operating system on a portable notebook computer. Oddly, how to turn off a Vista computer is not mentioned until this chapter.

Chapter 14 deals with networking computers with the Vista operating system.

Chapter 15 describes the games which come with Vista such as chess, Mahjong, and Solitaire.

Chapter 16 describes how to troubleshoot Vista.

The book contains many illustrations which are snapshots of the computer screen reduced to about 3 inches in width. Those whose eyesight is less than perfect (as is mine) will have trouble discerning the text in these illustrations. The solution is to follow the instructions on your own computer and read the text on the computer screen.

The book is priced at \$29.99 which is typical for a book of its size and quality.