|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Upgrading/ installing Windows 7 | November 6  2010 | |
| This report is about the feasibility of upgrading Toyotas head offices current desktop and laptop computers to Windows 7 from their present operating systems. | |  |

Contents

[Purpose 3](#_Toc276914053)

[Introduction 4](#_Toc276914054)

[Discussion 5](#_Toc276914055)

[Pros 5](#_Toc276914056)

[Cons 5](#_Toc276914057)

[Current Infrastructure 6](#_Toc276914058)

[Operating systems 6](#_Toc276914059)

[Cost 6](#_Toc276914060)

[Cost of upgrade 6](#_Toc276914061)

[Install Time 7](#_Toc276914062)

[Clean install 7](#_Toc276914063)

[Upgrade 7](#_Toc276914064)

[Compatibility Issues 7](#_Toc276914065)

[Hardware 7](#_Toc276914066)

[Software 7](#_Toc276914067)

[Drivers 7](#_Toc276914068)

[Recommended Installation Time and Day 8](#_Toc276914069)

[Installation Plan 8](#_Toc276914070)

[Conclusion 9](#_Toc276914071)

[Recommendations 9](#_Toc276914072)

[Bibliography 10](#_Toc276914073)

Report – Changing the Existing Operating Systems to Windows 7

## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to decide whether it is feasible to change all the desktop and laptop computers operating systems from their current operating systems to Windows 7.

This report will include issues such as cost, compatibility and feasibility. The cost of the upgrade or install will be a major factor as to whether it is feasible to carry out the implementation of it.

Compatibility will be another major issue because not all hardware will be suitable for the upgrade or to do a clean installation on; this will mean that new equipment must be purchased.

Lastly the feasibility of upgrading to Windows 7 will be looked into, even if the hardware is compatible and the cost isn’t prohibitive, the actual process of upgrading and installing to all workstations may not be suitable.

## Introduction

I will show whether it will be cost and time effective to upgrade the current working computers to the new Windows 7 operating system.

Windows XP was the main operating system for many years and was very successful but when Windows upgraded to Vista many people felt that it wasn’t superior to XP and in fact the general consensus was that it was far inferior.

The current operating systems in the Toyota head office are varied, some are XP and some are Vista. There is approximately 50% of each operating system.

When I have researched websites for this report I have been aware of the general impression of users that Windows 7 is more popular, with features such as ease of use and security features.

## Discussion

## Pros and Cons

### Pros

* No new hardware is needed: Windows 7 doesn’t need any more processing speed to run than Vista or XP, so the current hardware should be sufficient to run it. Windows 7 can also be run on a netbook.
* It is easier to connect to a network because it instantly shows the user what networks are available.
* 7 has a built in spyware and malware defender.
* Windows 7 has a faster sleep and resume time meaning that electricity will be saved when the pc is not in use.
* Windows 7 has a data encryptor built in, so that if the drive is hacked or stolen the data is not accessible.
* It has improved power management for longer battery life.
* Photos, music videos can be streamed more simply.
* Windows 7 also has advanced backup and restore (network backup and group policy)
* It has simple remote desktop connection so that it easier to connect remotely to a user’s computer.
* Faster boot time.
* The copy and paste function is much faster than in Vista.
* Windows Security Center has been renamed to Windows Action Center (Windows Health Center and Windows Solution Center in earlier builds), which encompasses both security and maintenance of the computer.

### Cons

* The restart function in Windows 7 is slower than in XP or Vista, this could become an issue if there are many programs or updates to install.
* There is no quick launch tool bar.
* There could be issues with the upgrade as opposed to the clean install.
* Windows 7 takes up a large amount of space on the hard drive, 20 gb for the operating system and another 20 gb for the updates.
* There is an issue with the product keys in some machines; some users are experiencing problems with the product key being already in use.
* There is currently an issue with Windows 7 computers using their entire RAM, some of the machines are using up to 3 gb of RAM, so the amount of RAM is a major consideration.

## Current Infrastructure

**Workstations:** 30  
**Laptops:** 5

Operating systems

**Windows XP:** 17 **Windows Vista:** 18

## Cost

If a user is upgrading from Windows XP it requires a clean install instead of an upgrade, this will cost more than the upgrade and also take more time.

The cost of Windows 7 will vary depending upon which version the user is installing. The cost of upgrading is less than half the cost of a complete installation.

**Clean install**  
Professional: $438

**Upgrade**  
Professional: $199

### Cost of upgrade

**Clean install from XP:** $7446  
**Upgrade from Vista:** $3582  
**Total:** $11028

## Install Time

The install time will vary depending upon whether the user is doing a clean install or upgrading. Oddly the after looking at the user forums, people have been saying that it takes longer to upgrade than it does for a clean install.

The time that it takes to install is also dependent upon the type of hardware the user has in their computer, the older the hardware the longer it will take.

Clean install  
Professional: Approximately up to 30 minutes (this time could vary depending upon the hardware configuration).

Upgrade  
Professional: Approximately up to 60 minutes (this time could vary depending upon the hardware configuration).

## Compatibility Issues

### Hardware

One of the problems with compatibility with Windows 7 could stem from the 33 versus 64 bit. The installer must be careful to install the 34 bit edition into older hardware and not the 64 bit version which is not compatible.

All of the computers in the head office of Toyota are 32 bit so the installer must ensure that the correct version is purchased.

### Software

Some programs will have trouble running on 64 bit versions of Windows 7, if this happens there is no compatibility mode which can fix this issue. The only way around this issue is to purchase the new version of the software.

Many compatibility fixes which were made for Vista also work for Windows 7 so this will allow programs made for XP or Vista to run in Windows 7.

Windows 7 also includes a compatibility mode for older applications. This will allow the user to try and make an incompatible program compatible with a compatibility fix.

Most of the software that Toyota has installed should be compatible with Windows 7.

### Drivers

The most common issue with Windows 7 compatibility is driver problems. Changes to an operating system usually cause existing drivers not to work because of the way the driver is trying to work with the part of the operating system that no longer exists.

The upgrade to Windows 7 from Vista will be easier and smoother than the upgrade from XP because Vista is similar to 7.

The drivers can all be upgraded upon installation.

## Recommended Installation Time and Day

The success of the installation and upgrade of Windows 7 will depend on installing it when the computers are least used and when there is time to fix any issues if problems should occur. There should be a roll back plan if there is an issue with the install.

My recommendation would be on a weekend or during the week on a slow day such as Monday 6 pm. Another good day could be Friday after the staff have left for the day.

Another consideration is if there will be network support staff available in case of any problems or issues.

## Installation Plan

1. Choose a suitable day and time.
2. Choose upgrade or custom, depending if you are going from Vista or XP.
3. Check hardware is compatible with the complimentary upgrade advisor

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-au/windows/downloads/upgrade-advisor>

1. Backup all data.
2. Update, run and disable the anti-virus software.
3. Connect to internet to update all the programs.
4. If the user is upgrading to 7 then insert the disk, if the user is doing a clean install start the computer with the disk in it (ensure it’s the correct version 32 or 64 bit).
5. Click install now.
6. When the install is finished, it will ask the user for a user name, computer name and password.

## Conclusion

In conclusion I have found that Windows 7 is an operating system that is easy to use, has some new security features and is easy to install.

My findings show that it costs more than twice as much to install the full version than it does the upgrade version.

It is a good idea to install the same operating system onto all the computers in the office so that compatibility of software and programs will no longer be an issue. All of the applications can be used and viewed on all computers so that the office will become consistent in its hardware and software.

## 

## Recommendations

My recommendations are to install Windows 7 on all of the computers in Toyotas head office. The upgrade will initially cost several thousand dollars but will save Toyota money in the long term.

One of the reasons for this is because Windows 7 has lower system requirements, meaning that money will be saved on replacing existing hardware to be compatible with the new operating system. Because 7 boots and loads quicker the user is using their time more efficiently, thus saving the company money.

Windows 7 is more user friendly so the company saves money on training and also on the time the user takes to become familiar with the system.

In Windows 7 most hardware is compatible so time is saved searching for a compatible driver.

The security in Windows 7 is more advanced, so that there isn’t as many popups as there is in Vista. The system is configured to the specifications of the user. Also Purchase the Ultimate Edition ($219.99 upgrade), and you can further encrypt drives and data using BitLocker technology to protect sensitive files and even portable USB keys from unauthorized intrusion.

## Bibliography

<http://windows.about.com/od/windowsosversions/f/FAQwindows7Upgrade.htm>  
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/buy/default.aspx>  
http://www.jbhifi.com.au/computers/accessories/microsoft/windows-7-professional-full-version-sku-50682/  
http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/common-windows-7-compatibility-issues/  
<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-au/windows7/help/upgrading-from-windows-vista-to-windows-7>  
<http://www.entrepreneur.com/technology/shinyobjects/article203890.html>