

## Is 7 Your Lucky Number?

Windows 7 has been released for about six months now and here at WebDispatch.com we've been using it since the release and testing the pre-release version for even longer. How does Windows 7 compare to Vista & XP?

- We have found that Windows 7 is much more stable than Vista, especially the 64 bit version of Windows 7 compared to the 64 bit version of Vista.
- Windows 7 runs faster than Vista and as fast as XP.
- It takes less time to startup & shutdown a Windows 7 system compared to a Vista or XP system.

### What does it take to upgrade to Windows 7?

To upgrade an XP machine you must do a backup of your system. Then you need to do a system wipe and clean install of Windows 7. You can then transfer your data back to your system. To upgrade from Vista, after backing up your system (a must), you can upgrade directly to Windows 7.

Prior to upgrading, you need to be aware of the applications you have running on your system to determine if they are compatible with Windows 7. Some issues we have found so far:

- Your system needs a minimum of 1 GB of memory, 1 GHz processor speed and 16 GB of available disk space.
- QuickBooks/Quicken - you must have version 2010. Windows 7 is not compatible with earlier versions.
- Microsoft Office - Windows 7 only works with Microsoft Office 2003 or higher. Office 2000 & Office XP are not supported.
- If you Skype, you must upgrade to the latest version.
- Most virus protection software require the latest version (you probably want the latest version anyway).
- Some older printers are not supported in Windows 7.

### Should you upgrade to Windows 7?

Our recommendation is that unless you have a compelling reason to upgrade, you should probably wait until you purchase your next computer to get Windows 7, especially if you are currently running XP. If you are currently running Vista and would like more stability, Windows 7 would be a good choice.