

IS&T Recommendation

- WAIT to install Windows Vista on production machines until your local or other IT support providers are ready to support you.

Why Wait?

- Many applications that are critical to productive and safe computing at MIT are not yet available from vendors, for example:
 - Authenticated Printing (e.g., Athena Clusters)
 - Cisco VPN client
 - Mathematica
 - Matlab
 - SAPgui
 - TSM (backup) client
- Local and central IT staff need to time to prepare
- Microsoft support for peripherals (e.g., printers) is not yet complete

Phased Support Plan

- Phase 1: Windows Vista Beta – *complete*
- Phase 2: Windows Vista Release to Manufacturing – *complete*
- Phase 3: Basic Support for early adopters begins January 30, 2007
 - Distribution of Windows Vista software
 - Limited training and documentation
 - Anti-Virus (VirusScan Enterprise 8.5i)
- Phase 4: IS&T recommends and fully supports Windows Vista in Summer/Fall 2007

Basic Size

- Vista Enterprise Edition DVD (not CD) is almost 2 GB and takes 20GB on your hard drive – 5 times the Encyclopedia Britannica!

Energy Enhancements

- Improved Power Saving Defaults
 - System Idle Timer for Sleep
 - Sleep default for Desktop as well as Laptops
 - Estimated savings per PC is approximately 370 kWh/year (\$50 at 13.5 cents/kWh)
 - \$1,000,000 potential annual savings for MIT for 20,000 machines

Security Enhancements

- Administrative users run with regular user rights and are prompted for admin rights when needed
- Bi-Directional Firewall
- Internet Explorer is not trusted by operating system
- Whole Disk Encryption available (BitLocker and EFS)
- Windows Defender (anti-spyware) built-in

Functionality Improvements

- New User Interface
 - Built in RSS Reader
 - Flip & Flip 3D
 - Live Taskbar Thumbnails
 - Sidebar & Gadgets
 - Windows Aero
- Improved Recovery Tools
 - Automatic Recover Points
 - Backup and Restore to/from DVD
 - Installation Media (DVD) is Recovery Media

More Information

- Windows Vista Release Project Notebook: <http://web.mit.edu/swrt/releases/vista>
- IS&T Computing Help Desk: 617.253.1101 or computing-help@mit.edu