



One Call PC Solutions

IT Consulting, Maintenance and Repair



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Bits and Bytes...

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Bits and Bytes
and Technology
Today.

Will you still need me, when I'm 64?...

Sixty-four is the square of 8, the cube of 4, and the sixth power of 2. It is also the one number that can cause the most headaches when applied to a new computer. Don't get me wrong, 64-bit computing is the future, eventually. We just need to convince the software companies of that. 64 brings quite a bit to the table; support for more than 3 gigs of RAM, better performance during processor intensive tasks, support for files larger than 4 gigs, and many other performance enhancements. Though for what it gives, it takes away in compatibility. Look over there in the corner, see that printer of yours? Guess what, probably won't work with Windows Vista 64-bit or the new Windows 7 64-bit. The problem isn't the printer itself, it's the software that runs it, remember the CD you used to install it? It seems that the responsible companies have been dragging their feet when it comes to rewriting the software necessary to make your programs and peripherals work properly on the new 64-bit platform. The best rule is, if you aren't positive that all of your necessary software and hardware is ready for 64-bit computing, then make sure your new computer still has a 32-bit version of Windows Vista or Windows 7 installed. This will be the case on most of the computers that are sold with 3 Gigs or less of RAM memory installed. You aren't really missing out on much as of yet. Unless you do much work with video or audio transcoding then the 64-bit processor won't be of much benefit. And the 3 Gigs of RAM? From experience I can tell you that Excel doesn't run much faster with 4. Additionally, Windows 7 is far less dependent on RAM than its predecessor was.

IE8? IE Hate...

Microsoft recently repeated one of their favorite mistakes, releasing software before it's finished. They are getting really good at this. First was Windows Millennium Edition, then Windows Vista, and now, Internet Explorer 8. IE8 is such a mess that Microsoft's own website doesn't look right when using it. It also fails to properly load pages such as webmail pages, bank websites, Pogo games, Yahoo games, most sites using flash or java, well you get the point. It wasn't anywhere close to ready for widespread use. To further complicate the IE8 problem, it looks like Microsoft may have accidentally automatically installed it on more than a few computers. It was listed as a Critical Update on Windows Updates and that caused it to appear on those computers that were set to automatically install Critical Updates. If you received it without asking for it, it can be uninstalled using the Add/Remove Programs icon in the Control Panel. If this is the future of Microsoft on the web, it might finally be a good time to give Fire Fox (<http://www.firefox.com>) a chance.

Windows 7...

October 22nd. That's what they're saying anyway. Stores should be stocked with new computers preloaded with Win7 and upgrades and full copies should be available on the shelf as of that date. If you've purchased a computer on or after June 26th, it should have come with a pamphlet of info about ordering your free upgrade online. If you purchased your PC prior to June 26th, then the upgrades look like they will run around \$50. Not a bad price to get out of Vista. There are also rumors of a "Family Upgrade Pack" that will upgrade three household computers for somewhere in the neighborhood of \$75-\$100. If you're still using a system that's running XP or have one of the earlier Vista machines, I'd pass on the upgrade. The older systems just aren't going to have the power to push 7 and make it look good. It might be time to make that old machine a backup and look for a new PC with 7 preloaded.

Final Byte...

"I sometimes wonder if the manufacturers of fool-proof items keep a fool or two on their payroll to test things."
~Alan Coren