

## the newsletter of Tarragon Solutions

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### Solutions!

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## Windows - here at last!

Possibly the most eagerly awaited product since Viagra, the latest incarnation of Microsoft Windows was launched last month in a blaze of publicity, most of it good\*

It has been hailed as Microsoft's last chance after the relative failure of Vista and it certainly was an opportunity for Microsoft to undo the damage to their reputation by redeveloping the good features of Vista into an Operating System that users could run without having to upgrade their PC or too much of their software.

Have Microsoft succeeded? The general consensus is, yes, they have. Windows 7 appears to run happily on quite modestly spec'd computers, even netbooks. It is stable, snappy, reasonably intuitive and benefits from a host of features that improve troubleshooting and reliability. Like Vista, Windows 7 is more particular about what it allows applications to do "under the covers" in order to enhance security but, for programs that fall foul of this regime, there is now XP Compatibility mode to allow them to run as if under Windows XP.

One drawback is the Windows 7 upgrade procedure. It is possible to install Windows 7 onto a PC currently running Vista but, if you use XP, there is no alternative to a "clean" installation which means you must then reinstall all your applications and data. However, this can be a benefit in disguise as it is a chance to tidy up the software inventory. Indeed, many pundits recommend a clean install be done even if the PC currently runs Vista; apart from the spring-clean aspect, it seems to be much faster than the Vista-7 upgrade process!

\* see the back page for some of the publicity that didn't *quite* live up to Microsoft's hopes!

## CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES - 2009

December 24th - Open until 1:30pm

December 25th - Closed

December 28th - Closed

December 29/30/31 - Open as normal

January 1st - Closed



## Big threats, big numbers

In July 2008, security vendor Trend Micro introduced their newest anti-malware technology, the Smart Protection Network (SPN). A year later it was blocking around 4 billion threats each day.

During the third quarter of 2008 SPN received around 10 billion checking requests daily; by the second quarter of 2009 this had risen to over 29 billion daily.

These mind-numbing figures, especially the fact that just one of the various security solutions is stopping over 4,000,000,000 potential infections every day, offer some idea of the size of the threat facing businesses – and demonstrate why you should ensure your anti-malware strategy is reviewed frequently!

## Windows - the Oddly Amusing side!

In recent years, Microsoft seem to have done a better job of producing marketing hype for their products than actually developing those products, the Vista version of Windows being the prime example. With Windows 7, however, the tables appear to have turned!

Whilst most pundits are applauding the Windows 7 software, many of Microsoft's Public Relations efforts to publicize it have caused a great deal of unintentional mirth.

Perhaps the most amazing was the attempt by Microsoft to encourage “launch parties” where Windows 7 would be the honoured guest but close on its heels must be the associated launch, by Burger King in Japan, of the “Windows 7 Whopper”. I kid you not. Consisting of seven “Whopper” burger patties, one on top of another, this culinary delight delivers around 1,000 calories!

You can find more comments on the Windows 7 Whopper – and links to clips of people actually eating them (and apparently surviving) – at

[http://blogs.computerworld.com/14964/microsofts\\_windows\\_7\\_whopper\\_campaign\\_the\\_worst\\_promotion\\_ever](http://blogs.computerworld.com/14964/microsofts_windows_7_whopper_campaign_the_worst_promotion_ever)



Microsoft also produced an informative a video of how to run a launch party which you can watch (if you dare) at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcX4t5-YpHQ>

You may find it easier to view the online version of this newsletter so you can click on the links. Simply select the November Solutions! from [www.tarragon.co.uk/newsletter](http://www.tarragon.co.uk/newsletter)

### Tip of the Month - Windows 7 Shortcuts

Windows 7 introduces lots of new shortcuts so here are a few based on the Windows key to whet your appetite:

Windows+Home	minimize all but the current window thus removing all the background clutter
Windows+D	minimize all windows and show the desktop
Windows+E	launch Explorer with Computer as the focus
Windows+F	launch a search box
Windows+M	minimize the current window
Windows+left/right/up arrow	snap the current window to the left/right/top of the screen

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