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Microsoft Vista Service Pack 1

Summary

The first service pack for Microsoft Windows Vista has been released. Service Pack 1 (SP1) includes all previously released public and private updates for Windows Vista, including hotfixes and security updates. As well as previously released updates, SP1 contains various enhancements aimed at improving reliability and performance, adds support for new hardware and for emerging standards.

Further Details

Below are links to Microsoft sites that provide further information on Windows Vista SP1.

An overview of Windows Vista SP1

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=39B802EA-B2CF-4585-8CEA-2CC6A6247CB3&displaylang=en>

Things to know before you download Windows Vista SP1

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-gb/windowsvista/bb968859.aspx>

Release notes for SP1, detailing current known issues.

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=B5B681F5-F366-4AD2-BA10-6A7D209DE7BD&displaylang=en>

A list of the hotfixes and security updates included in SP1

<http://technet2.microsoft.com/WindowsVista/en/library/20184cb6-7038-4e82-a32c-4bc10ffe56ab1033.mspx>

A list of the notable changes in SP1, also available as a downloadable file

<http://technet2.microsoft.com/WindowsVista/en/library/005f921e-f706-401e-abb5-eec42ea0a03e1033.mspx>

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=d69c4e1b-c81a-41be-b1f5-66e615ba5912&DisplayLang=en>

Microsoft instructions on how to evaluate and deploy Windows Vista SP1

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=E71F0083-1013-4F9C-A3F9-C56E7120A5E9&displaylang=en>

Microsoft Knowledge Base article on programs that conflict with SP1

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/935796>

Microsoft Windows Vista SP1 support site (it is standard practice for Microsoft is to provide free technical support with service pack releases).

<https://support.microsoft.com/oas/default.aspx?ln=en-us&prid=11274&gprid=500921>

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Windows Vista SP1 Frequently Asked Questions

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/windowsvista/bb972745.aspx>

Service Pack Blocker Tool

It is possible to block the installation of SP1 using the Microsoft provided tool. This allows for adequate testing of the service pack to occur before it is widely distributed to end users.

Windows Service Pack Blocker Tool

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/windowsvista/bb927794.aspx>

Windows Service Pack Blocker Toolkit: Frequently Asked Questions

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/windowsvista/bb892134.aspx>

How to get SP1

SP1 is public available for download as a standalone installation package here:

For 32-bit systems

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=B0C7136D-5EBB-413B-89C9-CB3D06D12674&displaylang=en>

For 64-bit systems

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=874A414B-32B2-41CC-BD8B-D71EDA5EC07C&displaylang=en>

SP1 will be pushed out via Windows Update from April 2008, to all machines that are ready to receive SP1. SP1 requires that certain pre-request patches have been installed. These patches have been released via windows update previously, but further information can be found here:

- KB937287 (<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/937287>)
- KB935509 (<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/935509>)
- KB938371 (<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/938371>)

The advantage of installing SP1 via Windows Update is that only the additional material that is required will be downloaded. This can reduce the download size from 450Mb to 65MB on a fully patched machine (for 32-bit) and has the added benefit of minimising the bandwidth required to get SP1. This can be used with WSUS to control the distribution of the update within your organisation.

Microsoft will also make available an integrated installation disk to subscribers. This makes it possible to perform a clean installation of Vista with SP1 pre-installed.

Uninstallation

You cannot remove SP1 from an integrated installation, but on a machine that upgraded to SP1 it can be removed through the 'Programs and Features' functionality in Control Panel.

Changes to SP1 Group Policy manager

In SP1 the existing Group Policy management console will be uninstalled, following feedback from system administrators who wanted to simplify Group Policy management. GPEdit.msc (an existing part of Windows Vista) will now edit the Local Group Policy by default. An enhanced version of the Group Policy management console will be included in Windows Server 2008, as well as the Remote Server Administration Tools for Windows Vista SP1

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(<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=9FF6E897-23CE-4A36-B7FC-D52065DE9960&displaylang=en>). The updated console includes new features, including comments and search/filter capabilities.

Deployment Options

Microsoft has released several tools to aid in the installation of SP1. These cover stand-alone SP1 installation as well as clean integrated Vista SP1 installations. See the SP1 Deployment Matrix for further information (<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/windowsvista/cc137819.aspx>).

Recommendation

GovCertUK's standard mitigation advice states that all software should be fully patched. Service Pack's are no exception, as they contain additional hotfixes that can improve stability and performance on the system.

GovCertUK recommend that Vista SP1 be installed at the earliest reasonable opportunity. However, it is recommended that adequate testing is undertaken to ensure that SP1 does not interfere with any business critical applications.

Vista SP1 and Vista GAP

At present there are no known issues with Vista SP1 and the Vista GAP.

GovCertUK is responsible for Computer Security Incident Response within UK Government, and provides an emergency response capability to public sector organisations that may require technical support and advice during periods of electronic attack or other network security incidents.

The CESG GovCertUK Incident Response team provides 24 hours a day, 7 days a week operation and can be contacted by the following methods:

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