

Why Vista failed, and Windows 7 may also!

People hated Vista, not just because it wasn't ready when it was released but some other reasons, I am wondering if Windows 7 will have the same fate?

In a nut shell one of the main reasons Vista failed was the navigation with the 'new' file system. To put it bluntly – It Sucks! After looking at Microsoft's web site and by doing a search on 'Vista explorer replacement' and finding a lot of complaints about the new Vista explorer and NO fix, I am wondering if Microsoft pays attention to customer complaints. Obviously not, Windows 7 has the same file system, called Libraries.

Back in the XP days you could create a folder on the desktop and put shortcuts in it. And that was all that was there. The Vista/Windows 7 libraries will do that if, and this is a big if, you turn off the navigation.

This is a hassle that has me looking for an alternative. First the hassle, if you turn off the navigation in one folder on the desktop the way the libraries are setup it turns off the navigation in all folders thus when you open the 'Explorer' you in essence have a folder with out any navigation! So to use it as an 'Explorer' you need to turn on the navigation again, then remember to turn it off when you are finished or when you open a folder it will explode in to the last view you used. Then you have to re-customize the folder again, as I said a hassle.

I have searched for a fix and the only type I can come up with is to use a third party (read buy it) software program.

In XP I have my desktop setup neatly, I don't open a program in full screen, on a 19" monitor there is about six inches of white space on each side of the application or it is so large the application is lost in the middle of the display somewhere. I have them open is a size that fits on the desktop and I can open folders with my work in them on each side of the application, makes drag and drop very easy. I have twelve or so icons down the left side of the screen, normal desktop icons, three folders, and some special programs I use on a daily basis and don't want to search through four or more layers of the program menu to use.

With Vista/Windows 7 to get individual folders on the desktop with out all the other 'stuff' such as My Favorites, Libraries (that is a different rant), and all the drives you have to turn it off. And what about the short cuts? I am one of those types that like a clean desktop. I don't want 800 icons on the desktop. I don't want to search around all those icons looking for a program when I am ready to use it (don't get me started on the using the programs menu on the start button! – yet!) that is why I have three folders on my desktop, Applications, Multimedia, and Games. Inside there may or may not be more folders with specific types of applications.

I also use a program called Desktops, this is one of the better ideas from Microsoft, you can find it on the TechNet part of Microsoft. What it does is creates four 'sessions' where

you can have different programs running at the same time that aren't layered or cascaded. It also minimizes the number of program short cuts on the task bar. This makes it easier to find a program that is minimized. I tried this program with Windows 7 and it works very well. The reason I mention this is that all your icons on the desktop are the same, mirrored. However any folder or program you open is only on that desktop. Such as on the number one desktop I have my email and rssreader open. Nothing else, keeps from getting confused. On another such as while I am writing this article I have Word and Front Page open. On another I may have a session of VM Ware running a virtual computer.

How does this tie in with Explorer? Each desktop has an Explorer running, that is what the desktop really is. Want to try an experiment? Open the Task Manager, go to Processes, find Explorer, right click and stop the process. What happened? I know I have done it. To get your desktop back go to run on the Task Manger and put explorer.exe in the box, press enter. Ahhh you desktop is back.

Now let's say you are using Vista or Windows 7, what happens? Basically the same thing, but the Task Manager will close also, just do a ctrl-alt-del, select 'Start Task Manger' then go to 'File/Run' and restart the Explorer.

Another annoying thing with the Libraries is the open each folder in a new window. If you have all the options on you have basically an explorer open each time you click on a folder, and you have to navigate to the folder you wanted open, if you turn off the options – all of them – then it acts like the old XP explorer and opens just the folder you want, no nav, no libraries, no favorites, just the folder.

To end this rant I am testing two 'Explorer' type programs to replace the Vista/Windows 'Libraries' and make folders. If only MS would listen to their customers, personally I like Windows 7 once all the 'fluff' is turned off it is quite fast and in all my testing I did not get it to crash once.

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