

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This month's article is on the latest Service Packs for Windows XP and Windows Vista. I'll also touch on an interesting and important notice for people traveling with their computers.

First, let's talk about the Service Packs. Microsoft has recently released Service Pack 3 (SP3) for Windows XP and SP1 for Windows Vista. Both are designed to enhance the user experience and the security of the operating systems. SP1 for Windows Vista also has some improvements in the User Access Control (UAC) and has improved the compatibility with older applications. I have installed both service packs and have not run into any problems, although, there are reported problems with SP1 for Vista and some sound drivers. I have a colleague who could not install SP1 on his computer because of an incompatibility with the hard drive. He reinstalled Vista on a new hard drive and was able to install SP1. Microsoft Vista Tech. Support could not explain why this happened. Please note that both service packs take between an hour to an hour and a half to install. I still caution you to install the Vista SP1 on a test computer to make sure all of your applications still work on it.

Now, for the notice to travelers. The Association of Corporate Business Executives has issued a press release on April 23, 2008 on the U.S. Federal Courts ruling that allows for the search and seizure of computer laptops when crossing U.S. Borders. Here is a link: [http://www.acte.org/resources/press\\_release.php?id=284](http://www.acte.org/resources/press_release.php?id=284) . Border Protection authorities can now search and seize laptops without reason, so the ACBE is warning travelers to limit the amount of personal and business information on laptops carried when traveling. I know of a few company executives that use one laptop as their only computer and they now risk the exposure of company proprietary information when they travel. One of the recommendations is to have two laptops, one for daily use and one for use when travelling. Of course, the second would only have information on it needed for that trip.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.