

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 will ask the question: Are you ready for Vista?

Back in May I wrote about the Service Packs for both XP and Vista. I hope you have installed them by now. And I hope you've been keeping up with the security updates for both systems. Here is an interesting fact, Vista is more secure than XP. In the 21 months since the release of Vista, it has only had 14 security updates compared to XP's 41. So does this mean that it's time to switch to a safer system? Maybe! It does mean it's time to look at Vista and see how it will fit into your business. Most business software has had a chance to produce a new version that will run on Vista. Most hardware vendors have produced Vista drivers for the products they want to support. So I do encourage you to take another look at upgrading to Vista. Since Vista and XP operate well together, there isn't a need to upgrade all of your systems all at once. Vista can be brought into the fold in phases.

On a side note, if you still want to buy new computers with Windows XP you can get them from Dell. They has what is known as an OS Downgrade from Vista to XP available through the business site until early next year. The computer comes with Windows XP installed but you also receive an installation disk for Vista when you're ready to upgrade. This deal is not offered to their home/consumer customers.

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.