

1. From XP to Vista



Microsoft, the creator of *Windows*, has published various versions of the *Windows* operating system over the past two decades. *Windows Vista* is the latest version, the successor to *Windows XP*. Many *Windows XP* users are wondering if they should switch to *Windows Vista* right away or wait for a while. This is a decision you must make on your own. To help you decide, the advantages and disadvantages of switching to *Windows Vista* are listed in this chapter.

In case you do decide to trade in your trusted *Windows XP* for *Windows Vista*, you will have to make a lot of choices. For example, which edition of *Vista* are you going to use? Are you going to use your old computer, or will you buy a new one? Is your old computer capable of running *Windows Vista*? If that is the case, are you going to upgrade your *Windows XP* system to *Vista*, or will you start with a clean installation? These are all choices you have to make for yourself, but the information provided in the first part of this chapter will make that a lot easier.

In the second part of this chapter you will read how you can perform an upgrade and a clean installation. Furthermore, you will see how you can use *Windows Easy Transfer* to secure your files and settings. With the special *Easy Transfer* cable you can transfer data between an *XP* and a *Vista* computer.

In this chapter you will find information on the following subjects:

- the advantages of *Windows Vista* compared to *Windows XP*;
- the disadvantages of switching to *Windows Vista*;
- the different editions of *Windows Vista*;
- the system requirements;
- using *Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor*;
- upgrading *Windows XP*, a complete installation or a new computer;
- performing an upgrade from *Windows XP* to *Windows Vista*;
- downloading, installing and using *Windows Easy Transfer*;
- performing a complete installation on an empty or an *XP* computer;
- completing the installation;
- importing data into *Vista* using *Windows Easy Transfer*;
- using an *Easy Transfer* cable to transfer data;
- setting up a dial-up account.

1.1 The Advantages of Windows Vista

Every new version of the *Windows*-operating system contains improvements. For example, improvements in security. There are also improvements made in response to feedback received from users, like improved user-friendliness and help-functions, as well as a better looking interface. The most important advantages of *Windows Vista* compared to *Windows XP* are:

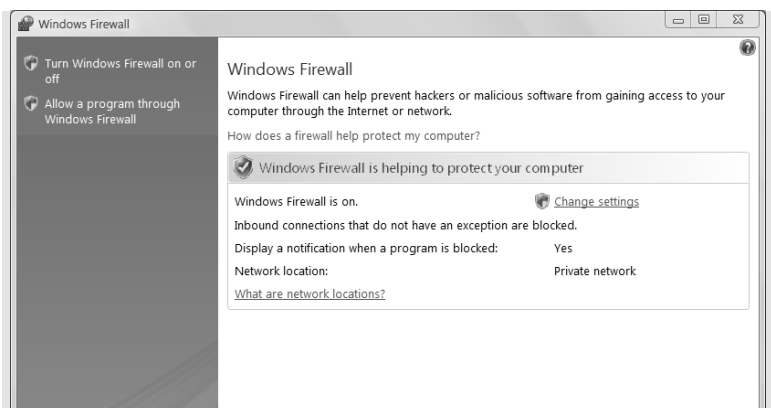
More security and stability

Compared to *Windows XP*, the level of security has improved in *Windows Vista*. As an *XP* user you might have wondered about the number of updates you had to install to keep *Windows XP* safe. A more stable and secure base structure is incorporated in *Windows Vista*.

Increased safety in Internet use

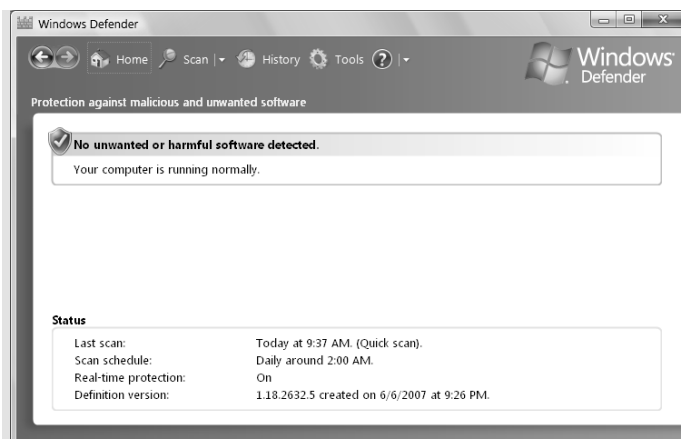
The growing use of Internet applications is also a risk for computer users. *Windows Vista* contains two programs that help battle dangers lurking on the Internet: *Windows Firewall* and *Windows Defender*.

Windows Firewall checks the source of the flow of data coming from the Internet or a network, and then either blocks it or allows it to pass through to your computer, depending on the settings you have chosen. This is a useful tool to protect your computer against hackers or malicious software.



Windows Defender protects your computer against the installation of spyware or other unwanted software.

Please note: *Windows Defender* by itself is not enough to protect your computer against viruses. You should purchase and install an antivirus program to further protect your computer.



User Account Control

As an added security measure, the *User Account Control* has been improved in *Windows Vista*. *User Account Control* can help prevent unauthorized changes to your computer.

In *Windows Vista* you will frequently see your screen go dark. A window appears in which *Windows* asks your permission to continue before a task is completed:

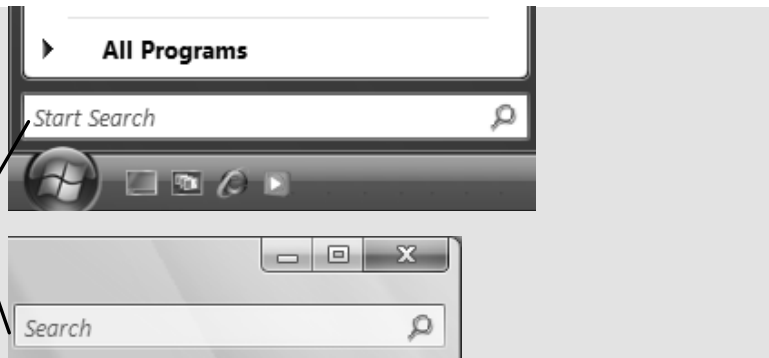


In case you have a standard user account instead of an administrator user account, you will have to enter the administrator password when you see this window. This will prevent programs being installed or changes being applied by users that do not have permission to do so.

Improved search feature

The search feature in *Windows XP* left a lot to be desired. The improved search feature in *Windows Vista* makes it a lot easier to find documents and other files on your computer's hard drive.

At the bottom of the *Start menu* and in the top right corner of each folder window you find a handy *Search Box*.

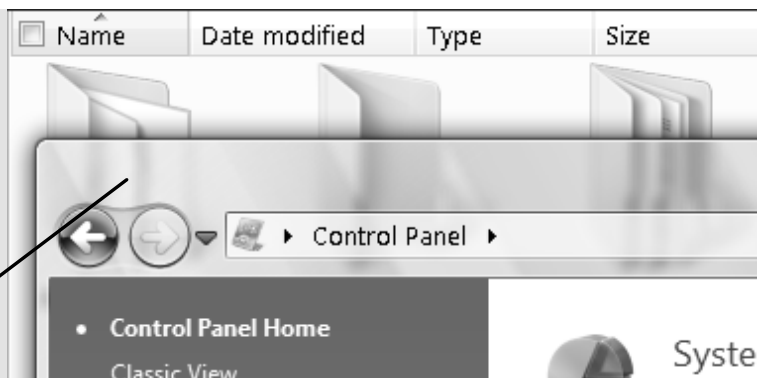


Improved interface with *Windows Aero* and *Windows Flip 3D*

Windows Vista looks a lot different than *Windows XP*. In developing *Vista*, a lot of attention has been given to the overall 'look and feel'.

The new *Windows Aero* interface is an eye-catcher:

When you use *Windows Aero*, you see transparent window frames in the color of your choice:



To be able to run *Windows Aero* smoothly, you need a fast graphics card. If your graphics card does not meet the minimum requirements, *Vista* will automatically choose another appearance which can be run properly.

A fun part of the *Windows Aero* interface is *Windows Flip 3D*: this is a way to preview your open windows in a 3D stack without clicking the individual buttons on the taskbar.

Flip 3D shows all opened windows in a stack on your desktop. You can flip through the stack, and open the desired window by clicking it:

Please note: several key *Vista* features such as *Windows Flip 3D* are not available in *Vista Home Basic*.

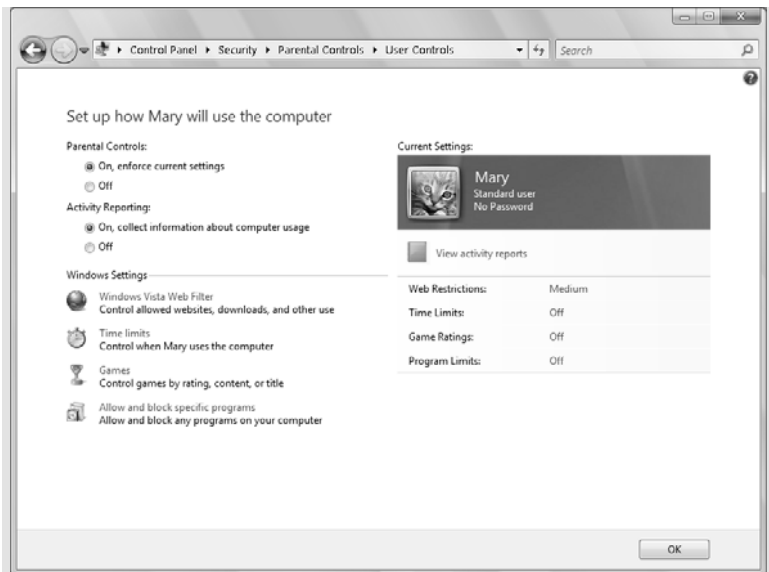


Parental Controls

You can use this feature to help manage how your (grand)children use the computer.

You can set limits on:

- the number of hours they can log on to the computer
- which games they can play and what programs they can run
- which websites they can visit



1.2 The Disadvantages of Switching to Vista

Of course there are disadvantages to be considered in switching to *Windows Vista*. In the end you will have to decide for yourself if the advantages of *Vista* outweigh the disadvantages you can encounter in switching to *Vista*.

Cost

It will be obvious that you will have to spend money to switch to *Vista*. The *Windows Vista* software alone is a considerable expense. But that is not all. There is a good chance that your current computer is not capable of running *Windows Vista*. Even for *Windows Vista Home Basic*, the most simple edition, the system requirements are demanding. It is possible that you will also have to add the cost of a new computer, or the cost to upgrade your current computer. In the following sections you can read more about the different editions of *Vista* and their system requirements.

Older software does not run anymore

A lot of programs that run on an *XP* computer, are not automatically compatible with *Windows Vista*. In many cases this issue can be resolved by downloading an update for or a new version of the program from the manufacturer's website. You need to take into account that there will be some programs that are no longer supported for *Windows* versions newer than *XP*. This means you will have to find similar software that is suitable for *Windows Vista*.

Devices do not function anymore

When you switch to *Windows Vista*, it is possible that devices like printers, webcams and scanners no longer function. In many cases this can be resolved by downloading a new *driver* for the device from the manufacturer's website. Be aware that there may be no *Windows Vista* drivers available for older devices.

Getting used to *Vista*

When you start to use a new operating system, you will need time to get used to it and to get to know the different parts. It will take a while before you are as familiar with it as you are with *Windows XP*.

Improved security

Oddly enough, the improved security in *Windows Vista* can be experienced as annoying by some users. When you change the settings of your computer, you will frequently be interrupted and asked for your permission to continue.

1.3 The Different Editions of Windows Vista

Windows Vista is released in five different editions. Two editions for the business market (*Vista Business* and *Vista Enterprise*) and three editions for the consumer market. As a home user you can choose from:

- ***Windows Vista Home Basic***: this is the most simplest edition, with the most important general features of *Windows Vista*. This edition also contains the new security features. *Windows Vista Home Basic* is ideal for homes with basic computing needs like e-mail, surfing the Internet, and viewing photos.
- ***Windows Vista Home Premium***: this more extensive edition is suitable for the more demanding user. In this edition extra attention has been given to digital media and entertainment (*Windows Media Center*), and to features for laptops (*Windows Mobility Center*). This edition also offers support for users that use a tablet with an electronic pen instead of a mouse.
- ***Windows Vista Ultimate***: this is the most complete edition of *Windows Vista* with all features for power management, security, mobility and entertainment. This edition is very suitable for people that use the same computer for business use as well as for private use.

You may have read about some of the new features in *Vista*. However, they are not available in all editions. The most important differences are listed in this table:

	Home Basic	Home Premium	Ultimate
<i>Windows Firewall</i>	yes	yes	yes
<i>Windows Defender</i>	yes	yes	yes
<i>Parental Controls</i>	yes	yes	yes
Making backups	yes	yes	yes
Making automatic backups	no	yes	yes
<i>Windows Aero interface</i>	no	yes	yes
<i>Windows Flip 3D</i>	no	yes	yes
<i>Windows Media Center</i>	no	yes	yes
<i>Windows Mobility Center</i>	no	yes	yes
Tablet-pc support	no	yes	yes
Remote desktop	no	no	yes
<i>Windows Meeting Space</i>	no	no	yes



Tip

Will you choose the 32-bit or the 64-bit version?

It is possible that you already have a computer with a new 64-bit processor, instead of the usual 32-bit processor. Each of the different editions of *Windows Vista* is available in both a 32-bit and a 64-bit version.

Even if you have a 64-bit processor, it is probably a better idea to choose the 32-bit version. This version is perfectly suitable for normal home use. Using the 64-bit version requires that you use 64-bit versions of all hardware drivers. In addition, all software has to be 64-bit as well. You can **no longer** use 32-bit software and drivers.



Tip

What is Windows Vista Starter?

Windows Vista Starter is a stripped edition of *Home Basic*, developed especially for 'emerging markets' like developing countries. This edition will not be available in the USA and Canada.

1.4 System Requirements

To be able to install and run *Windows Vista Home Basic* your computer has to meet the following minimum system requirements:

- 800 MHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor, like an Intel Pentium 4, AMD Athlon or Celeron processor;
- 512 MB of system memory;
- 20 GB hard drive with at least 15 GB of available space;
- Support for Super VGA graphics;
- CD-ROM drive.

A computer that is five years old or more will probably not meet these requirements. Computers that were sold right before the introduction of *Vista*, carry this sticker if they meet the minimum requirements:

Home Basic can be installed on a computer that meets the minimum requirements. However, there is no guarantee that the performance of *Vista* will be optimized. Some product features may not be available.



These are the recommended system requirements for an optimized performance of *Windows Vista Home Basic*:

- 1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor;
- 512 MB of system memory;
- 20 GB hard drive with at least 15 GB of available space;
- graphic support for DirectX 9 and 32 MB of graphics memory;
- a DVD-ROM drive;
- audio output;
- Internet access.

These are the recommended system requirements for an optimized performance of *Windows Vista Home Premium* and *Ultimate*:

- 1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor;
- 1 GB of system memory;
- 40 GB hard drive with at least 15 GB of available space;
- graphic support for DirectX 9 with WDDM driver, a minimum of 128 MB graphics memory, Pixel Shader 2.0 in hardware and support for 32 bits per pixel;
- a DVD-ROM drive;
- audio output;
- Internet access.

To be able to use all of the features of *Windows Media Center* in *Windows Vista Home Premium* and *Ultimate* you will also need a TV tuner card. *Windows Tablet and Touch Technology* requires a Tablet PC or a touch screen.

1.5 Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor

It is possible that the system requirements mentioned in the previous section do not mean a whole lot to you. Or you may have no idea what the current specifications of your computer are. *Microsoft* has thought of this as well.

On the *Microsoft* website you can download the program *Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor* for free. This program can determine if your computer can run *Vista* and if yes, which edition. You will also receive tips on parts that possibly need replacement, devices that might not function anymore and programs that are not compatible with *Vista*.

You can download the *Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor* from this website:



<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/buyorupgrade/upgradeadvisor.aspx>



HELP! This web address no longer exists

Content on the Internet, including the *Microsoft* website, is frequently updated. If the web address listed above no longer exists, you can surf to **www.microsoft.com** and use the *Search Box* on the website to search for 'upgrade advisor'.

You can download and install the *Upgrade Advisor* as follows:

 Use the link  **Download Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor** to go to the download page. There you can enter which type of Internet connection you use, and (if necessary) change the language of the download

 Click to start the download

 Click in the window **File Download - Security Warning**

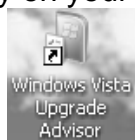
The download starts right away and you see the progress.

 Click in the window **Internet Explorer - Security Warning**

The installation begins. In the wizard that appears:

Agree to the terms of use

When the installation is completed, *Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor* is opened. If that does not happen automatically on your computer, you can use the shortcut that has



been placed on your desktop:

You see the first window of the *Upgrade Advisor*.

Before you start the scan, plug in any devices that you use regularly with your computer, such as printers, scanners or external hard drives.

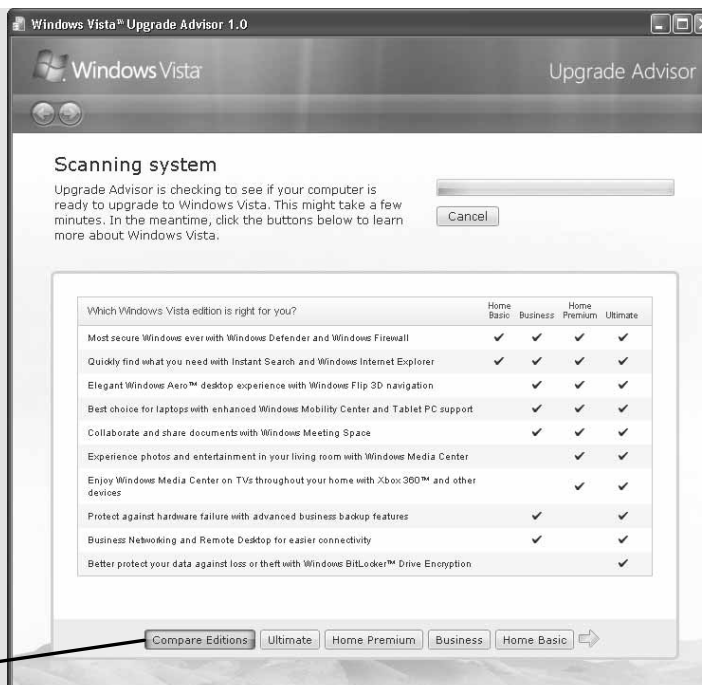
Click





Your computer is being scanned. This might take a few minutes.

In the meantime, you can use the buttons at the bottom of the window to read more about the different editions of *Windows Vista*:



When the scan is complete you can view the results.



Click

See Details




In this example the *Upgrade Advisor* gives a positive report, and indicates that *Home Basic* is probably the most suitable edition:

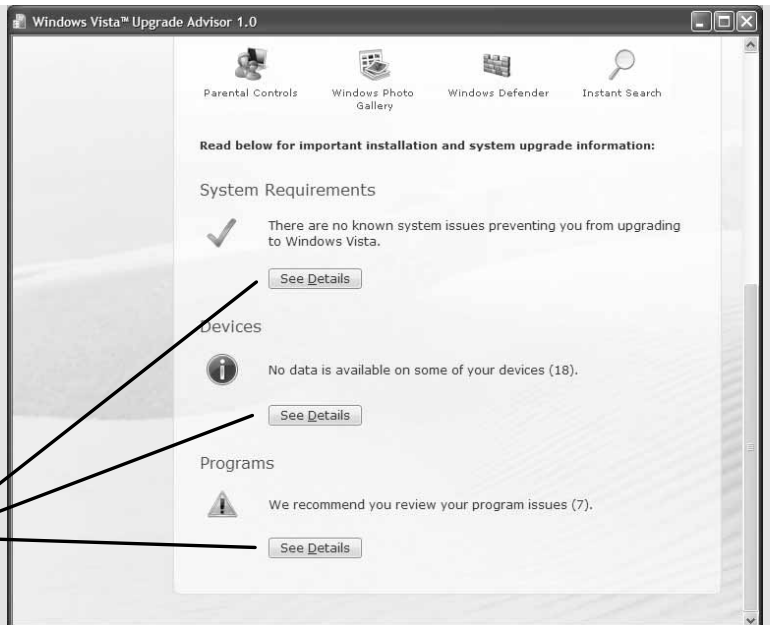
By clicking the names of the other editions, you can check the report to see if your computer might be able to run these editions:






When you scroll down, you see the summaries of the reports for the other items: system requirements, devices and programs.

Only the items with  have no problems.

With the buttons  you can open the reports:



In the report on programs there may be certain items that need your attention:

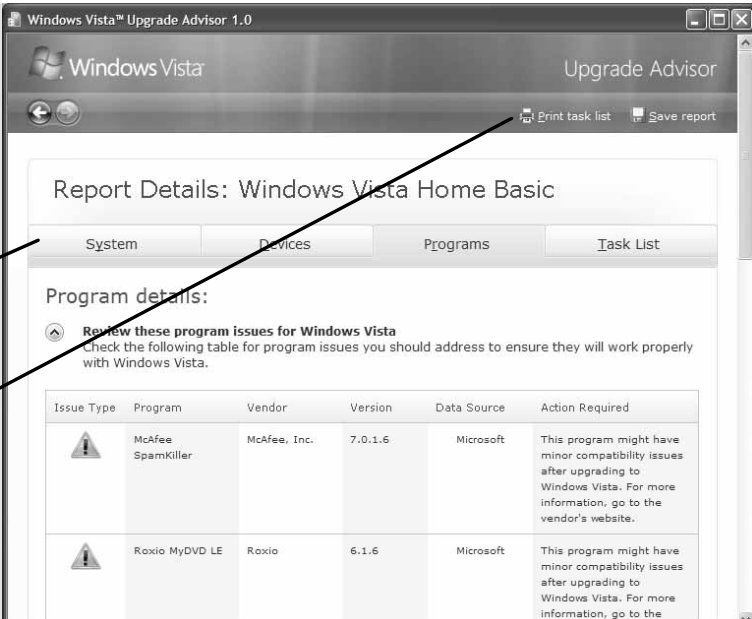
-  means that a program should be removed before a possible upgrade to *Windows Vista* can take place.
-  indicates *Vista* compatibility problems causing a program not to run well or not to run at all. Using the links given in the report you may wish to download updates, or visit the manufacturer's website for more information.
-  these items have no known compatibility problems.

In this example you see where problems could arise when upgrading to *Vista Home Premium*:

The three items are shown on separate tabs:

With the button  you can print the full report:

You can use this report, for example, to ask your computer supplier for advice on a possible hardware upgrade.



1.6 Upgrade, Complete Installation or New Computer?

By now you have received enough information to decide whether or not you want to switch to one of the editions of *Windows Vista*. If you decide to make the switch, you need to make a few more decisions:

- are you going to perform an upgrade on your *Windows XP* computer (after a possible hardware upgrade) to one of the *Windows Vista* editions?
- are you going to do a complete installation on your *XP* computer (after a possible hardware-upgrade)?
- are you going to do a complete installation on an empty computer?
- are you going to buy a new computer with one of the *Windows Vista* editions already installed?

If you are considering an upgrade from *Windows XP* to an edition of *Windows Vista*, be aware of the following points:

Choose the right edition

The edition of *Windows XP* on your computer will be the deciding factor as to which edition of *Vista* is best suited for your upgrade. From *Windows XP Professional* it is only possible to upgrade to *Vista Ultimate* or *Vista Business*. From *Windows XP Home Edition* you can upgrade to all editions: *Home Basic*, *Home Premium*, *Ultimate* and even the *Business* edition.

Choose the right language

The language of your current edition of *Windows XP* should be the same as the language of the *Vista* software you want to use. For example, it is not possible to upgrade a Spanish *XP* computer to an English language edition of *Vista*. If the language does not match, you will only be able to do a complete install.

Upgrade copy or full copy?

To perform an upgrade from *Windows XP Home Edition* to *Windows Vista Home Premium* you can purchase a special upgrade copy of *Windows Vista*. The price of an upgrade copy is lower than the price of a full copy of the *Vista Home Premium* software. A disadvantage is that if you ever need to reinstall *Vista*, you have to do a complete reinstall of *Windows XP* including *Service Pack 2*. After that, you can perform the upgrade to *Vista*.

It is definitely worth considering buying the full version of the *Windows Vista* software. With the full version, you can upgrade *Windows XP* and if necessary, you can do a complete install, without needing your *XP* software.

Advantage of an upgrade

The biggest advantage of upgrading *Windows XP* to *Windows Vista* is that you can keep your programs, files and settings, (like contacts and favorites) as they were in your previous version of *Windows*. The version of *Windows* on your computer is not overwritten, but only updated. As mentioned before, after an upgrade to *Vista*, there is a possibility that some of your programs or devices will not run well or may not even run at all.

**Tip****Safety first!**

Before you start an upgrade, be sure to make a backup of files that are important to you, such as documents, photos or music. A good way to do so is to write a copy of these files to one or more CDs or DVDs. You can also copy your personal files to a USB stick. If you have an extensive library of larger sized files (such as videos) you may want to copy these files to an external hard drive.

In chapter 6 of the book **More Windows XP for SENIORS** you can read more about writing Data CDs in *Windows XP*. To write a Data DVD you can refer to the manual of the program you use for writing DVDs. Information on working with a USB stick can be found on www.visualsteps.com/info_downloads.php in the free guide **Working with USB sticks in Windows XP**.

**Tip****What will happen to the music you have bought?**

Music you have bought in online stores such as *Rhapsody* and the *iTunes Store* is protected with *Digital Rights Management*. It is possible that you will no longer be able to play these music files on your *Vista* computer. Once you switched to *Vista* and have transferred your music and video files, you will need to retrieve new media usage rights for any protected files transferred.

In many cases, *Windows Media Player 11* handles media usage rights acquisition for you. When you attempt to play a song that requires new media usage rights, the *Player* will typically try to download them automatically. If it cannot do so, usually an error message appears that instructs you what to do next (for example, verify that you are connected to the Internet, sign in to your online store, and so on.) If you are unable to download new media usage rights contact your online music store for assistance.

Tracks that have been bought in the *iTunes Store*, can be played on a maximum of five computers. These computers (for example your *Vista* computer) have to be authorized in the *iTunes*-program. When you upgrade from *Windows XP* to *Windows Vista* it is advised to deauthorize all computers first. After installing *Vista* and *iTunes* you can authorize your computer again through the *Store*-menu in *iTunes*. For more information, please refer to the online Help-section of *iTunes*.

**Please note:**

Do you use the *Windows*-program *Back-up* to create backups in *Windows XP*? By default, it is **not** possible to import the .BKF-files you make with *Windows Back-up* in *Windows Vista*. To be able to do that, you need a special program that can be downloaded from the *Microsoft Download Center*:

www.microsoft.com/downloads/Search.aspx?displaylang=en

On this page you use the search terms 'Backup restore utility':


Search


Open the page for the program with this link [Windows NT Backup - Restore Utility](#) ✨. Follow the instructions on this page for downloading, installing and using this program.


When you perform a complete installation, none of your settings will be retained and all programs will need to be reinstalled. A complete new version of *Windows* is placed on your computer. All files on the hard disk of your computer, will be overwritten when *Vista* is installed. Therefore, before you do a complete installation, be sure to back up your important files. You can do this with *Windows Easy Transfer*.

In section 1.8 you can read how to download and install *Windows Easy Transfer*.

 **Are you going to upgrade your *Windows XP* computer to *Windows Vista*?**
Just continue reading.

 **Are you going to perform a complete installation on your *Windows XP* computer?**
Skip the next section and continue reading at section 1.8 *Downloading and Installing Windows Easy Transfer*.

 **Are you going to perform a complete installation on a computer where *Windows* has not yet been installed?**
Skip the next sections and continue reading at section 1.10 *Performing a Complete Installation*.

 **Have you purchased a new computer with *Windows Vista* already installed?**
Skip the next sections and continue reading at section 1.11 *Completing the Installation*.