

Appendix
Comparing XP to Vista



A comparison between Windows XP and Windows Vista

Many of the functions in **Windows Vista** are quite similar to those of its predecessor **Windows XP**. There are some minor terminological differences. For example “My Computer” and “My Documents” in **Windows XP** are renamed as “Computer” and “Documents, respectively in **Windows Vista**.

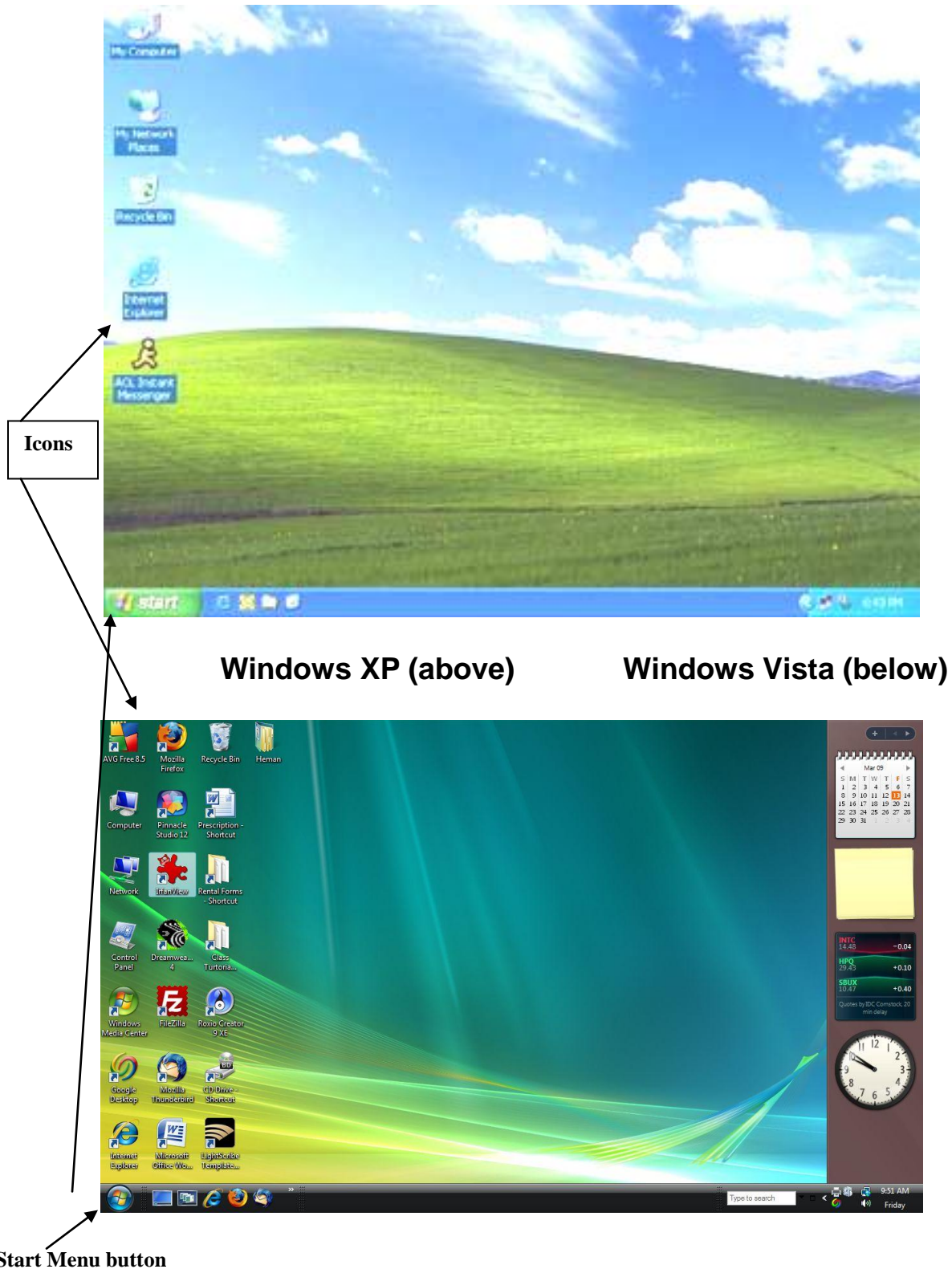
The obvious difference is cosmetic. Some of these differences will be elaborated in the following pages. Examining the side by side pictures of **XP** and of **Vista** functions, should help to demystify **Vista**. What will be compared is: the Desktop, Start Menu, and All Programs [the list of computer programs]. In many respects, the differences are minor and easily bridged.

The real difference is in the file system. Instead of My Document as the root for all newly created files, Vista create your personal folder which is your logon name. The Windows Virtual folder are Document, Music, Picture and Video.

For a fuller understanding of Vista folder hierarchy, review chapter 3 and 4 in this manual.

Appendix C: Comparing Windows XP and Vista

COMPARING DESKTOPS



Note: Icons may be added to either **XP** or to **Vista**, and double clicking the icons opens the program, in either system. When the program is opened, it looks the same in either system.



Vista Start Button



XP Start Button

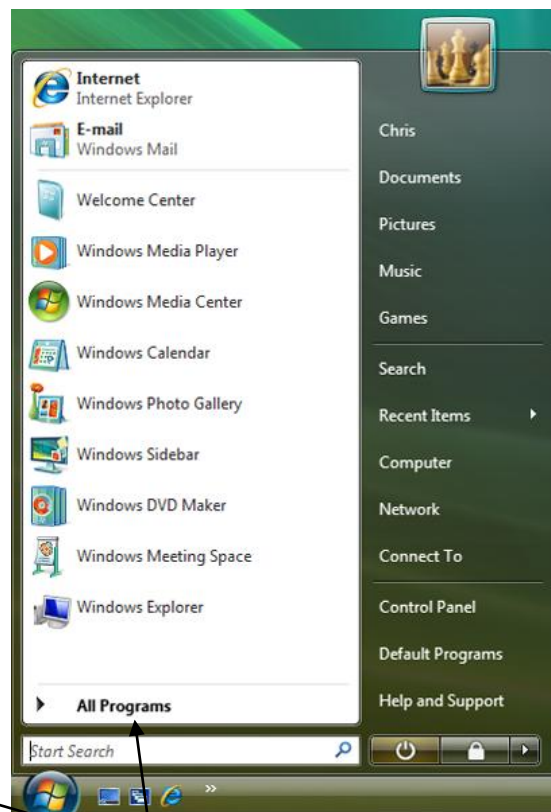
Start Button

For the most part, the Start Button is in the same relative place on both XP and Vista desktop. The only changes is the new round icon with the Microsoft logo..

COMPARISON OF START MENUS

WINDOWS XP

WINDOWS VISTA/7



Start button

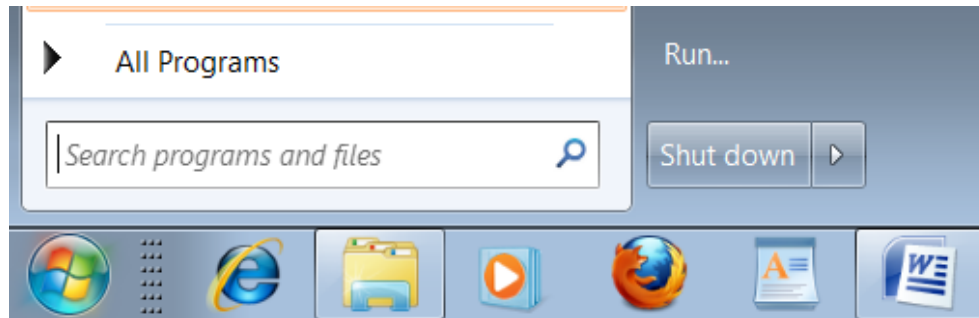
All Programs

Note that in each case, clicking **All Programs** opens a list of programs. Clicking on a program in the list opens it. When a program opens, it looks the same in **Vista** as it does in **XP**.

Comparing the Desktop, Start Menu, and All Programs illustrations, shows that opening a program is very similar in **Windows Vista** as it is **Windows XP**. Once a program is opened, proceeding to use it is virtually the same in the two systems.

Windows 7

The default action for the Power button on the start menu in Vista is Sleep, which isn't necessarily useful for everybody unless they are using a laptop. This has been corrected in Windows 7, now the default action for the Power button on the start menu is shut down.

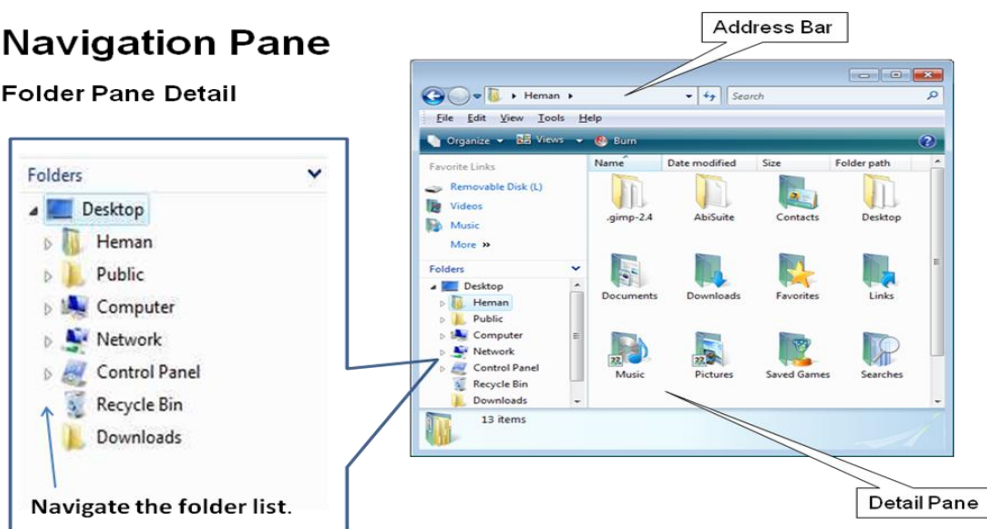


File Management (Windows Explorer Screen)

Most the difference is cosmetic but once you get into file management folders, the differences is more obvious. Vista and 7 have a different file structure that XP. Start with Window Explorer, Vista/7 default view look similar to XP's Folder View turned on. The XP's Folder Pane is similar the Vista/7 Navigation Pane but the + and -to collapse and expand subfolder is replace with ▷ and ◀.

Navigation Pane

Folder Pane Detail

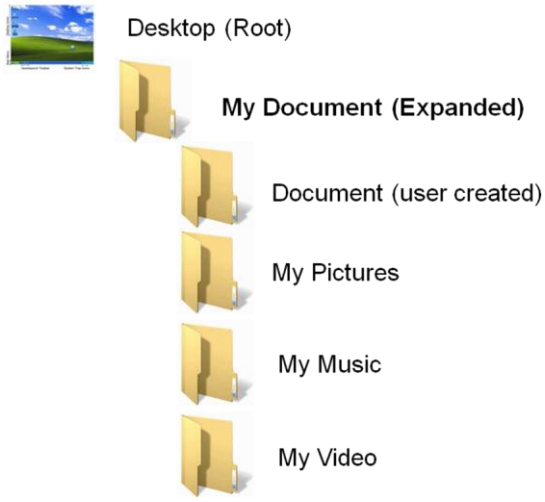


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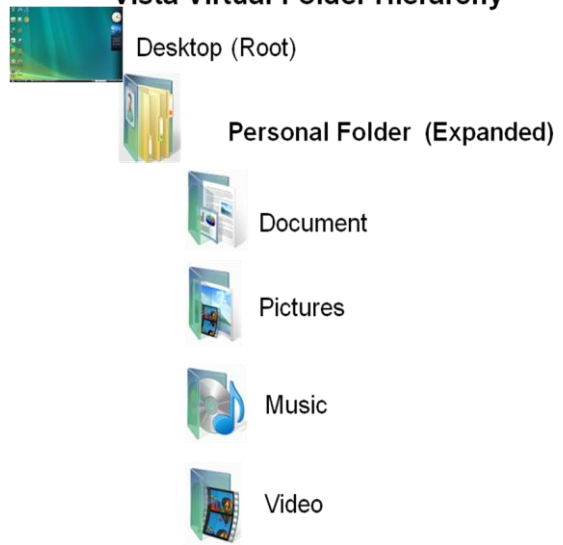
XP's "My Document" is replaced by Vista "Personal Folder" which is the user's logon name. My Picture, My Music and My Video folders is not a sub-folder of My

Document. Vista correct this by creating sub-folder Document, Picture, Music and Video at the same folder hierarchy.

XP Virtual Folder Hierarchy



Vista Virtual Folder Hierarchy



The Differences between XP and Vista Folders

The major internal difference is the default file location for documents, pictures, music, video and application program setting. This is the actually physical location on the hard drive. File on the hard drive (C:) are stored on folder known as directories. To access these directories, open My Computer or Computer (Window Explorer) and then open the Hard Drive (C:). The directories will appear as folders in Windows Explorer.

Folder Location

XP	Vista
C:\Documents and Settings\	C:\Users\
C:\Documents and Settings\your-username\My Documents\	C:\Users\your-username\Documents\
C:\Documents and Settings\your-username\My Documents\My Pictures\	C:\Users\your-username\Pictures\
C:\Documents and Settings\your-username\My Documents\My Music\	C:\Users\your-username\Music\
C:\Documents and Settings\your-username\Local Settings\	C:\Users\your-username\AppData\Local\
C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Start Menu\	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\

What's New

1) Find that file in a few quick clicks

You don't need to remember folder names to be organized anymore. Save time by instantly tracking down any document, photo, e-mail message, song, video, file, or program on your PC using Instant Search.

2) See everything you have open at a glance

Lost track of what files and programs you've opened? Flip through all your open files and windows with a simple click of your mouse using Windows Flip 3DA—you're just one click away from everything you're working on.

3) Keep photos organized—and ready to share

You can also use Photo Gallery to fix and edit photos, then share them with family and friends through slideshows, e-mail, or prints—so everything you need for photos is in one place.

4) Create a custom movie without a fine arts degree

Making a great home movie just got easier. Use Windows Movie Maker to blend videos and photos into a rich movie, complete with your own soundtrack, titles, and credits.

5) Keep track of your music—and play it anywhere

The larger your collection of digital music grows, the harder it can be to organize and keep track of it. But now you can easily scroll, flip, browse through, and play your entire music library in Windows Media Player 11. You can even create new playlists of your favorite tracks with a single click.

6) Surf multiple waves of the web at once

Satisfy your appetite for multitasking without having to open several browser windows. You can open multiple webpages in one window and easily click between them with the tabbed browsing feature in Internet Explorer 7—plus, you can see thumbnail images of all your open webpages at a glance with Quick Tabs.

7) Record and watch TV on your time

Watch TV on your own schedule—not the TV networks' schedule. If your PC has a TV tuner, you can record, watch, and pause live television on your desktop or mobile PC using Windows Media Center.

8) Bring your TV and PC together—and take home entertainment to a new level

Tired of huddling around the PC for entertainment? Connect your PC to one or more televisions in your home using a Windows Media CenterM to enjoy all your digital entertainment on the big screen—from photo slideshows, home videos, and digital music to live and recorded TV shows and movies.

9) Keep the things you need most at your fingertips

No need to open a web browser to check traffic and weather, open a calculator to add up a few numbers, or open an application to see your calendar. Now you can put mini-applications called gadgets right on your desktop, where you can see and use them whenever the mood strikes. Just use the Windows Sidebar pane to store and organize your favorite gadgets.

10) Help your kids stay safer

Now you can set boundaries on what your kids can do on the PC to give them a safer experience, using the centralized Parental Controls in Windows Vista. You can even restrict games and websites based on your family's values.

Plus, you can better protect your PC and your personal information, as well as your family, with built-in security tools like Windows Defender and anti-spam and phishing filters.