



Greystone Technology Group, Inc.

# The G:Drive

## Did You Know

- ~ October is the most common birth month along with July
- ~ October 1st, 1903 was the first World Series Baseball Game
- ~ The first "Model T" Ford was introduced by Henry Ford on the 1st of October, 1908
- ~ "Twilight Zone" premiered, October 2nd, 1959
- ~ Chubby Checker—born Ernest Evans on October 3rd, 1941
- ~ National Boss's Day is October 16th
- ~ Xerox introduced the first copy machine, October 22nd, 1938

## Windows Vista — just a little sweeter

*Breaking through the silence, Microsoft finally announced their plans to have Vista Service Pack 1 available in the first quarter of 2008.*

Just last month, Microsoft began beta testing on Service Pack 1 (SP1) to correct known bugs, problems, and even spruce up a few features for Vista. They have a small group of testers working with the "beta preview" version but hope to use a group of about 10,000 pre-selected testers to work out all the bugs.

When Microsoft first developed Vista they focused on a system that would provide higher levels of productivity, security, and mobility but with lower costs.

**The initial release** seemed plagued with problematic compatibility issues falling short of expectations. Today, we see an increase in compatible programs, new software developed just for Vista users, and with the first Service Pack, answers to mysterious glitches.

**Get the Facts!** The web is chalked full of interesting speculation regarding Vista's first Service Pack. Jon DeVaan, Microsoft's Senior Vice President of Core Operating System, set the record straight in his press release addressing the contents of SP1 and availability.

"In addition to updates we've previously released, SP1 will contain changes focused on addressing

specific reliability and performance issues we've identified via customer feedback..."

Remember SP1 is not filled with new features but it will enhance functionality for a few existing components and include device driver improvements.

John is excited about delivering the Service Pack in the first quarter of 2008. However, he stressed Microsoft's goals in the following statement,

"...we're first and foremost focused on delivering a high-quality release, so we'll determine the exact release date of SP1 after we have reached that quality bar."

Many organizations have hesitated to purchase Windows Vista due to compatibility and functionality concerns of such a new operating system. Not to mention the cost, time and training that goes into deploying Vista.

Now you can rest easy with the most advanced operating system on today's market knowing you have the support you need when you need it.

### Why hold off on deploying Vista?

Microsoft offers support to all those who are willing to evaluate and deploy Windows Vista. In a

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## iPhone activation can be troublesome

*iPhones sure are a hot craze these days. You may want to have a back-up phone available when you first purchase your iPhone though. The delayed activation can leave you in the dark ages.*

According to a recent article in Computerworld, new iPhone owners who are trying to transfer their existing cell phone number to their new iPhone are experienc-

ing long delays—particularly when trying to transfer service from rival carriers.

These problems began lighting up message forums shortly after the iPhone went on sale. New iPhone customers were frustrated when they realized activation was not instantaneous, even though the user guide promised to complete activation in 20 minutes.

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## Windows Vista...

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business environment they recommend trying the new system on only a few computers to ensure your hardware and applications are Vista compatible.

### Don't know which ones to choose?

Don't worry because we can help. Give us a call and we will come to you! Your onsite visit will include an evaluation of your computer systems to determine which are ready for Vista, assistance with ordering necessary hardware and developing a deployment plan.

**Know your limitations.** Have you ever gone to a retailer or surfed the web looking for something specific for your computer? If so, you have undoubtedly come across that disappointing section on the product label that says, "system requirements".

No matter what you look up online or pick up in the store, the first thing you always see is for a Mac or requires more memory than what you have available on your computer.

Check into your systems limitations. Find out what type of memory you have on each of the PCs you want to upgrade to Vista. In order to run this new operating system you need:

- ~ 1-gigahertz (GHz) 32-bit (x86) processor or 1-GHz 64-bit (x64) processor

- ~ 1 GB of system memory, most standard computers run with only half this size.
- ~ Windows Aero-capable graphics card
- ~ 128 MB of graphics memory (minimum)
- ~ 40-GB hard disk that has 15 GB of free hard disk space.
- ~ Internal or external DVD drive
- ~ Internet access capability
- ~ Audio output capability

**What?** While this may seem like a lot, your computers probably meet more than half of these requirements. We can advise you on these requirements or recommend a new type of computer to purchase that will best suite your business needs.

Don't be intimidated by Vista. We can approach this monster together. So, put down your candy corn and call us today to schedule a complete network evaluation. 303-757-0779

### DATA LOSS CAN BE FATAL

The best defense in preventing a catastrophic loss is a solid backup infrastructure including off site storage of data. GT BACKUP enables you to get enterprise-class protection for your critical data at a fraction of the cost. Don't wait. Call today.

## iPhone activation...

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The **user guide** claimed that the user would be able to make calls and use the other features in the meantime. Here is the "important" notation from the iPhone User's Guide:

**Important:** AT&T will send you a welcome text message a few minutes after activation is complete, letting you know that you can receive calls. If you are migrating your current phone number to iPhone, activation is usually completed in less than 20 minutes, but it may take several hours depending on your previous carrier.



phone as they waited for iPhone activation to kick in. Annoyed users quickly dubbed it the "iBrick."

**Resolutions?** Of course, many people did report activations in under 10 minutes, sometimes faster. AT&T spokesman Mark Siegel was quoted as saying,

"The vast majority of activations are going through in a matter of minutes, as they're designed to.

Have there been instances where customers have experienced delays? Yes. We're trying to resolve them as quickly as possible."

He declined to provide a number of affected users and of course, Apple was not available for comment on the subject.



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In many cases, users found that their old number had been deactivated, leaving them without a cell

## Would you like free WiFi with your coffee?

*Who, what, when, where, free? Are you paying-per-use for your WiFi? Now you can avoid the WiFi fee's and in some cases commuting expenses.*

Thousands of coffee shops nationwide offer free WiFi service, which allows data to be transmitted via a wireless network at no extra cost to the user.

**Who can use it?** Anyone can. Business people are taking advantage of this awesome feature, shying away from pay-per-use locations all together. Why not try a new flavor of espresso at a café close by or pick up that novel you have been waiting to read at your local library and avoid monthly WiFi access fees.

**What trend?** It's a definite trend, according to the consulting firm Gray & Christmas, Inc. John Challenger, the firm's CEO, says he occasionally works out of Chicago coffee shops. He is not the only one avoiding the office, breathing in a little extra atmosphere and indulging in a fresh cup of joe.

Coffee shops are not the only businesses picking up on the trend; now you can access the internet from thousands of libraries, millions of hotels and almost every airport in the US.

Try a Google search for free WiFi in your area. You will surely come up with multiple listings of places you have not connected to yet.

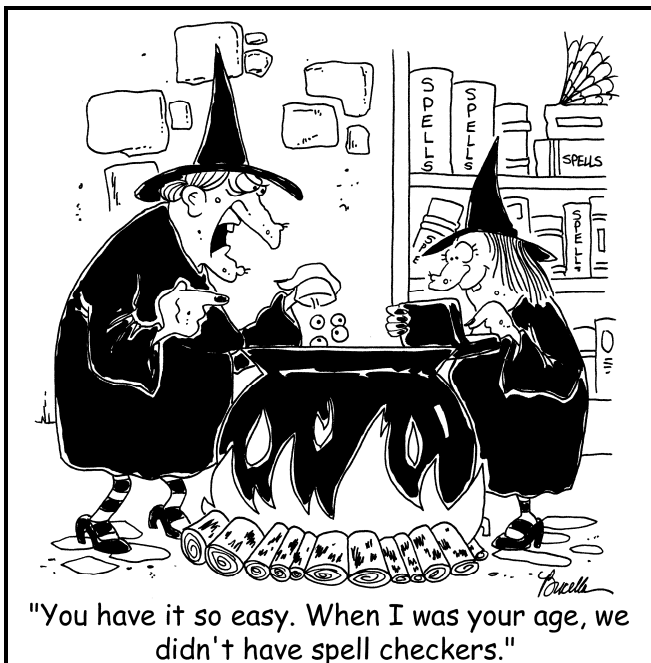
**When is it available?** Free WiFi hotspots are available 24/7. Say you're an early bird and you make it to the coffee shop fifteen minutes before they even open. No trouble, just pull up a chair and work on the web while you wait.

Connecting at coffee shops isn't appropriate for all workers. However, connecting there can save time and auto expense. If you look into a city coffee shop or stroll through your county library, you will probably see users ranging from students to sales people, even pharmaceutical representatives. They not only work from their laptops but also meet with colleges and clients in cafés.

**Where are these free hotspots?** Take a look at [www.anchorfree.com](http://www.anchorfree.com). They offer a quick look up table for locations around the world. If you have an iPod you can even download the wiPod database that allows you to find hotspots anywhere anytime.

**Yes, I said free!** Don't feel bad about taking advantage of free WiFi hotspots-businesses hope you will. They offer this free service with the hope you will become a regular paying customer.

Just remember to check your battery power; plugs may not be as abundant as they should be. And don't rely on the staff for assistance as they many not know how to use WiFi or in some cases even know it is available.



### Don't let your funding go up in smoke!

Take a step back and evaluate where the excess end of the year funds are needed most. Some organizations just blow the extra money on junk in order to preserve their budget for the coming year. This year, take time to make a plan and spend wisely.

Upgrades and other improvements with new technology may be a great way to give your company a boost. More memory, faster processors or even new software may be the additions you need to increase efficiency and ease frustrations.

Let's face it! More memory, an upgrade to Windows Vista, an all-in-one printer or that new server you have been wanting to purchase could enhance the quality of your services and motivate employees. Don't let your funding fizzle out at the end of the year. Create a spending plan and invest in the future of your organization. We are here to help. Call us today to schedule a technology assessment. 303-757-0779



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## Welcome to G:Drive—our bi-monthly newsletter

You manage your business.

- ✓ Increase Productivity
- ✓ Eliminate Downtime
- ✓ Streamline Operations
- ✓ Reduce Cost

We'll manage your technology.

### Your referrals are the biggest compliment!

When we provide service for your referral for the second time, your company will receive a two hour credit on your next bill and you will personally receive a \$100 Amazon.com gift card. In addition, your referral's first two hour visit is free of charge. To refer a potential client, simply fill out our online form at [www.greystonetech.com/referral](http://www.greystonetech.com/referral).

Thank you.

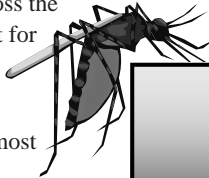
## Inquiring Minds...

### Can you hear the Mosquito?

Originally marketed as an ultrasonic device to repel teens loitering near store fronts, the Mosquito buzzer has now evolved into a ring tone.

The Mosquito tone is an ultra high frequency at 17 kilohertz developed for store owners to discourage youth gatherings without disturbing adult guests. Generally, adults over age 25 cannot hear such tones due to natural gradual hearing deterioration.

A few techie students turned the tables on the ingenious developers of this buzzer and evolved the Mosquito into a ring tone. The ring tone is now becoming a hot item for students in schools across the globe. It is available on the internet for free and great for students to use in class so their cell phone does not disturb their instructors.



Unfortunately, a lack in hearing deterioration is the most common sensory abnormality in the world, meaning some adults can still hear it. Test yourself and download free ultrasonic ring tones at [www.ultrasonic-ringtones.com](http://www.ultrasonic-ringtones.com).

### A stress relief break

Face it. There are times when your work almost makes you dizzy with stress. When it happens, try these ways to get calm and refocused.

- ~ Stop and do nothing for five or ten minutes. Sit quietly and listen to the sounds. This slows heart rate and reduces blood pressure, two of the effects of stress. At the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine they say: Remember that the only thing you can control is the present moment.
- ~ Get background music. In an Australian study, two groups were working on a presentation. Those who worked in silence had increases in blood pressure and heart rates. Those who

worked to a calm musical background had steady readings and reported feeling much less stress.

- ~ Laugh at something. Laughter is not only one of the most effective stress busters, it also helps your immune system. Even anticipating something humorous will lower your stress level.
- ~ Take a walk. Taking a five- or ten-minute walk has a very calming effect, much better than a cup of coffee and a roll, say psychologists at Stanford University School of Medicine.
- ~ Practice belly breaths. For several minutes, practice slow, deep belly breaths. They make you stretch your shoulders and loosen the right muscles. Take belly breaths every hour when doing stressful work.

## Treat yourself to a little piece of mind

You've got a business to run. Greystone will manage your technology for fixed monthly cost. Managing a network by only reacting to issues leads to decreased productivity and increased costs. Through our GT Care Program, we comprehensively monitor your network, conduct scheduled preventative maintenance routines, and provide the software applications needed to keep your network safe, secure and stable. All for a predictable price.

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