

# The KCS Enquirer

**Information about the Computer Revolution**

Volume 11 Issue 4

Fourth Quarter 2006

*Exchange 2007*

*SharePoint Reborn*

*Hybrid Drives 2 Cores/4 Cores/How Many More?*

## **MS News**

### *Vista in Full Release*

Vista, Microsoft's latest operating system, is now in full release. We are currently researching the system to determine its pros and cons. As soon as we feel confident in the system we will be making our recommendations on upgrades. In any case you should be preparing for Vista since it will be the OS of the future. Microsoft is in process of minimizing or discontinuing support for all other systems.

### *Exchange 2007 Released/SharePoint Upgraded*

Exchange 2007 is a total revamp of the Exchange platform. It is offered as a 64 bit system only. Most operating systems and programs to date have employed a 32 bit architecture. 64 bit programs are much more powerful and flexible but they must be run on a 64 bit operating system which requires a 64 bit capable processor. This means to use Exchange 2007 most companies will have to upgrade their network operating system (NOS) to a 64 bit system. Fortunately most server processors sold in the last few years

## **KCS Computer Technology Inc.**

Novell Authorized Partner

Authorized Hewlett Packard Dealer

Microsoft Certified Professional on Staff

Certified Novell Administrator on Staff

Phone: 847-288-9820 Fax: 847-288-9822

Web Page: [www.kcstech.com](http://www.kcstech.com)

E-mail: [sales@kcstech.com](mailto:sales@kcstech.com)

### **Network Installations**

### **Custom Programming**

### **Custom Configured PCs**

### **Digital Surveillance Systems**

### **Phone Systems & Upgrades**

## **SEE OUR WEB PAGE FOR QUOTES & ON-LINE ORDERING**

can run a 64 bit system. The question will be if it is worth the time and expense to upgrade. From what we have experienced and researched anyone who relies heavily on the Exchange system should seriously consider upgrading. This is especially true if your server is a few years old and ready for an upgrade anyway. Only the server needs to be a 64 bit system - workstations and client access licenses (CAL) can remain 32 bit.

Exchange 2007 features better security, including SPAM filtering, improved mobile messaging and access, web-based messaging,

improved calendar functionality and unified messaging. Unified messaging is one of the best features. It will consolidate all your communication links into one location. This can include phone voice messages, faxes and e-mails. Your messages will be available from anywhere since you can even use a standard phone to retrieve them, including e-mails using text to voice technology. You will even be able to interact with your calendar and access your directory to call contacts using a standard phone. Mobile and remote

users will access the home office through Microsoft SharePoint. VPN or tunnel services will not be required. Exchange and Outlook 2007 will be tightly integrated with SharePoint. SharePoint looks to be the pivotal program tying together in-house functions with remote access and Internet functions. We are extensively testing this new version of SharePoint and will be reporting on it along with our impressions of Exchange 2007 in future newsletters.

Outlook 2007 is dramatically changed. The new Outlook is familiar but its functionality and ease of use is much improved.

### *The Office 2007 Experience*

We have been using Office 2007 and it not only has a new look and feel, it performs better and is easier and more intuitive to use. Menus are improved with a new look but are still familiar enough to make current users comfortable. Selecting a main menu category automatically changes the submenu selections to reflect the category clicked. The "Office Button" replaces the "file" menu selection in Word, Power Point, Access and some Outlook functions. It consolidates commands into one easy to find and use location. Document access and collaboration, both in-house and with remote users, is improved by using SharePoint. We will be getting into more detail in future newsletters but here are some of the things we liked right away: In Word the ability to preview changes by just moving your mouse over the selection is very helpful. Being able to print PDF files from Word without using a third party program is a welcome change and the search functions in Outlook 2007 are more complete and much faster. One very helpful and well thought out feature found in all the Office programs is the pop-up informational pane that appears when you move your cursor over a menu item. It not only gives a description of the item but tells you what to expect when you click it. It is a very helpful feature. The help functions in the Office programs are also much improved.

Form what we have seen so far Office 2007, unlike some previous updates, looks like a hit and a worthwhile upgrade. It will also be closely integrated with SharePoint. Keep in mind we can offer you some great prices on Office suites.

## **KCS News**

### *Dual Technology Drives*

Hybrid drives, which combine traditional hard drive technology with electronic non-volatile flash memory (NVRAM), hold the promise of higher speeds, better durability and less power consumption. Initially targeted at mobile computers the electronic flash drive component will be used to store system files, temporary files and other data that does not require storage on the traditional mechanical hard drive.

The technology will mean shorter boot times and quicker recovery out of hibernation since the files required for these functions will be stored on the much faster electronic portion of the drive. Since the mechanical hard drive will be powered down when not required reliability should improve and power consumption should drop. Data security will be improved by having all system information stored in one place in the electronic memory which is be more secure. Vista, Microsoft's latest operating system, will take full advantage of these types of drives using Windows ReadyDrive features. Installing hybrid drives in Vista systems will be as easy as traditional drives according to a spokesman from Seagate Technology, a leading drive manufacturer.

### *Protect Your Printer Investment*

If you own or are looking to purchase a Hewlett Packard printer you may want to consider purchasing a HP Care Pack. These are offered as an enhancement of the original warranty (longer term and/or improved service) or as an extension after your original warranty has expired. Pricing and type of response vary based on model and age of printer. Some offer on-site service, some require returning the printer to HP and other packages offer an exchange. Care Pack Services can be purchased through us and we offer a discount off the price through HP. These warranties can save you both time and money compared to paying for post warranty service. Contact us

if you need additional information, pricing or to place an order.

### *Multi-Core Frenzy*

Both Intel and AMD have embraced the multi-core architecture to boost processor performance. Multi-core simply means that two or more processor cores are contained on the CPU (Central Processing Unit). These types of CPUs are commonly called Dual-Core, Core Duo and Quad-Core (four cores). New manufacturing techniques that reduce the size of the processor components allow even more processing cores to be housed on one chip. Where this will end is anyone's guess but there is talk of ten or more processors per chip in the near future.

Multiple core processors undoubtedly provide better speed but it is not a linear increase. In other words a dual core processor is not twice as fast as a singular core processor rated at the same speed. This is due to the fact that speed is dependent on other factors such as bus speed (speed at which data is transferred internally), memory speed, electronic memory cache size (high-speed temporary electronic storage), drive speed etc. Manufacturers are rapidly upgrading these peripheral functions to better enable the processors to move data quickly. The result is substantially faster machines. Multi-core processors also use less energy thus run cooler.

## **Surveillance System News**

### *DVR Research*

We are testing a low cost DVR (Digital Video Recorder) appliance that looks promising and also features watermarking. While it does not offer some the features of our higher end models it can offer CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) surveillance at a very attractive price.