

The KCS Enquirer

Information about the Computer Revolution

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Year End Wrap Up

Looking Ahead

KCS News

Happy Holidays

The KCS family wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyful Kwanzaa and a prosperous and Healthy New Year.

What Happened - 2011

Tablets Come of Age

Although they have been around for years in one form or another Tablet computers are finally finding a niche. These are, in reality notebook computers that utilize a touch screen for entry and have constant Internet contact mostly through satellite hookups. The turning point in popularity was the advent of a very user friendly interface coupled with a seamless connection to the Internet and a plethora of apps (applications). Many apps are free and the rest are pretty cheap. The apps facilitate ease of use and access to banks, social networks, workplace and home from virtually anywhere. Apple, Android and Window based machines use similar or the same operating systems as popular cell phones so they are very compatible and have a familiar feel After Christmas we should see prices

coming down and performance rising.

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This is a product that serves a legitimate purpose and will have a niche market for the foreseeable future.

Windows 7 Catches Hold

Unlike Vista, Microsoft's Operating System Windows 7 has lived up to its hype and has been widely accepted. Most individuals and businesses are specifying Windows 7 as their preferred OS. We at KCS believe that this is the best OS that Microsoft has released to date. Windows 7 has lots of great features but one of the more useful ones is the ability to run a virtual Windows XP machine on the Professional and Ultimate versions.

This allows users to run XP only programs on their Windows 7 computers with virtually no performance loss.

64 Bit Operating Systems Make their Mark

With the advent of Windows 7 computer manufactures began furnishing 64 bit operating systems in earnest. Faster and able to address much more memory (4GB vs. 192GB) than 32 bit systems a 64 bit system really boosts performance.

Solid State Drives Entering Mainstream

Solid state drive prices have fallen to the point where they can be justified for at least the operating system drive(s) on both workstations and servers. A great performance booster.

Mobile Phones Getting Even Smarter

Mobile phones grew more powerful and useful, becoming in a sense mini-computers. More powerful processors, larger memory, sophisticated operating systems and high speed Internet connectivity has made them much more functional. As with Tablet computers apps have added many tools and communication abilities. With the new operating systems these devices can and do blend in with many other electronic

devices. Data can be shared and manipulated across your phone, home computer, office system, tablets and shared with anyone with Internet access anywhere.

What Will Happen in 2012 (Maybe)

Windows 8

Windows 8 will debut in early 2012 and will mark a significant change in the way Microsoft perceives how computers will be used in the future. Windows 8 is designed with touch screen functionality as an integral component of the user interface. This clearly reflects Microsoft's vision that touch screen technology will be the users preferred method of interacting with electronic devices in the future. It will also enable Microsoft and developers to utilize windows 8 across electronic devices that rely predominately on touch screen input such as tablet computers and smart phones with minimal revisions. Since they will be using the same operating systems communication between these devices will be easier and will offer more features. Windows 8 promises to build on the success of Windows 7 which is the best system Microsoft has built to date.

On-Line Backup

It looks like affordable, secure, fast and reliable on-line backup services will be available in 2012. We are working with our partners to offer a cost-effective solution early next year. On-line backups will be secure with data stored safely off-site. This will minimize the need to store archived data on tape or hard drives at an off-site location to eliminate the chance of physical damage. It will be automatic and up-to-date with no need of user intervention - no tapes or drives to change. And since there will be no need for sophisticated hardware and the accompanying software, maintenance will be minimal and a failure due to hardware or software malfunctions should be virtually eliminated. A simple, inexpensive in-

house backup should still be used for cases when a file or file(s) have to be retrieved and a full restore is not required. We usually recommend an inexpensive external hard drive backup device.

Better Remote Monitoring & Access

Remote monitoring and access can not only identify and alert your IT service to problems but they can in many cases be fixed remotely before they mushroom and result in downtime and lost data. We offer a comprehensive program that can proactively keep your system in good health. Coupled with on-line backup, remote managed anti-virus and anti-intrusion protection your system can be kept running and trouble free at a small monthly cost.

More Virtual Machines

Using virtual machines on servers will reduce cost, simplify network architecture, facilitate the use of third party proprietary programs and reduce the number of hardware servers required. We have virtual machines running at several locations now and it is proving to be a great technology.

Improved On-Line Collaboration and Remote Computing

Faster and more available Internet access is driving increased usage of on-line document sharing and updating. Programs such as Microsoft Office 365 are making on-line work simpler and more efficient. Cloud computing whether propriety or through a service will be a growing technology. With the release of Windows 8 you will have the ability to carry your home and/or office computer configuration with you on a flash drive allowing you to replicate your system on any available Windows 8 computer anywhere in the world just like you were sitting at your home or office computer. This will in many cases eliminate lugging a notebook computer on trips.

Smaller, More Powerful and Greener Processors

Intel is working on a new design processor chip code named Ivy Bridge. Intel is targeting a 37% speed performance boost and a 60% graphics performance improvement along with a 50% increase in energy efficiency and a lower price when compared to current offerings. Built on 22-nanometer chip size these processor chips are targeted at the mobile device market. Its lower power consumption and size will push the next generation of ultrabooks – very thin and light notebook computers. These ultrabooks will offer many of the features of current tablet computers such as long battery life, instant-on functionality and constant connectivity to the Internet. Ivy Bridge processors will also be used in servers and desktop computers.

Convergence of Electronic Devices

2012 will see an acceleration of the convergence of electronic devices especially mobile units. Desktops, notebooks, tablets, smartphones, surveillance systems, televisions and even gaming devices will run on similar architectures and will be able to easily communicate with each other and transfer and collaborate on data and projects. All your information will be available and useable regardless of the device you have at hand at the time. Touch screen interfaces will become more commonplace and user interfaces will be more standardized.

More Cyber Communication

The use of cyber-space for the transmission of information and data will increase geometrically. We are starting to see the end of paper and phone communication in many areas. Banks send statements electronically, on-line banking is becoming common, and taxes are filed and paid electronically. This will only accelerate in the year to come.