

Getting ready for Microsoft in 2010

A “Wave” of New Products and Software

Recently, Microsoft held their 10th annual Worldwide Partner Conference in New Orleans. C/D/H partners Paul Hillman, Mark Becker, and Doug Lindhout attended to find out what Microsoft had in store for 2010.

Below, we’ve included a summary to help you and your company prepare for a new “wave” of Microsoft products and software.

Microsoft Windows 7 – Yes, It’s finally time to upgrade from XP.



The biggest new product from Microsoft by far is Windows 7. Microsoft is looking to move beyond Vista and bring forward a more successful operating system to replace XP. With the commercial release of Windows 7 coming up in October, it’s time to get ahead now by making sure everything’s going to work.

Advantages of Windows 7

- A lighter, faster, more effective operating system
- Installable on laptops, net-books, mobile, and other low-power devices
- Effective and aesthetically appealing graphic user interface
- User interface tools like Aero Peek, Thumbnail previews, Notifications, etc.
- Better handwriting recognition
- Faster wireless communications abilities

What Do You Need to Know?

The best way to prepare for this new operating system is to start thinking about it now. Download the release candidate and start testing software. Compatibility will be key to a smooth transition for your business. This is especially true for larger companies with larger data and IT needs.

If you have a desktop management service like SMS or Novell ZENworks, it’s time to upgrade those as well to be compatible with the new operating system.

C/D/H is currently offering a seminar as part of our Technology Briefing Series on preparing for Windows 7. [For more information visit our website.](#)

Microsoft Office 2010 and SharePoint



The second biggest thing happening at Microsoft is the new Office 2010 Suite. The WPC gave us our first look at this new and surprisingly stable software.

Some Things to Look for:

- The new suite makes co-authoring available in most products, which means that multiple networked users can edit the same document at the very same time. As you work, the software will refresh on all users' screens keeping them current with your most updated content.
- The PowerPoint publishing feature: At the conference, they published a PowerPoint to the web and proceeded to show slides being rendered from web browsers for everyone, including a Windows Mobile device **and** even an iPhone! Imagine the possibilities to quickly publish your presentation around the world.
- SharePoint 2010 will have several new features including publishing for Word, Visio, and PowerPoint. Additionally, it has a more effective user interface (including the ribbon introduced in Office 2007), improved document collaboration; drag-and-drop development tools; and better connectivity to back-end data systems (e.g. SAP and PeopleSoft).
- Outlook also gets a fresh look with a new user interface using the proverbial ribbon.
- Finally, have you ever gotten your inbox slammed because someone sent a silly email to lots and lots of people, and then others began to reply-all? Suddenly your inbox is flooded with dozens of worthless emails of people yelling at each other, which is what we call an "email war". Outlook now has a feature to recognize this and offer to automatically opt you out of received and the soon-to-be-received tiresome emails on the same subject.

Online Computing – Getting more applications in the cloud.



All the products that you can purchase to run on your local desktop or internal file server can also be "rented" and accessed over the web. That means companies will no longer need to purchase expensive hardware upfront, just to watch it depreciate over 5 years. They simply begin a "pay as you go" contract with Microsoft. Most companies can get away with a contract for as little as \$15/month per employee.

Some Things to Look for:

- Cloud based computing has always lacked some key functionality compared to on-premise computing. Microsoft promises full feature equity from their on-premise solutions to their cloud offerings.
- For those companies not quite ready to jump to the cloud, Office 2010 also has tools to allow individuals to essentially host their own cloud, which provides the benefits of centralized apps and data behind the security of your own firewall.
- So the choice is really up to the company, traditional on-premise computing, full cloud computing, "private" cloud computing, or some combination of all three.

If you're interested in learning more about the new wave of Microsoft products and services, you can contact us by email at paulh@cdh.com or by phone at 616.776.1600.