7 Slides About Washington's Experience With Windows 7

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Our Roll Out History…

Operating System and Office Deployments

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Windows for Workgroups		Windows 95		Windows NT		Windows 2000			Windows XP					~~Windows Vista~~		Windows 7		?
				Office 97			Office 2000		Office XP		Office 2003			Office 2007			Office 2010	?

1. Preparation

- Prepare for Vista!
  - We actually did…
    - …we prepared an entire roll out plan
    - …we made application adjustments
    - …we planned to target capable hardware only
  - And then got derailed by the press of the day
    - …so we waited two years
    - …and our actual Windows 7 roll out was much smoother; most all of our hardware was adequate; and the rest of the world had caught up
  - So, just for fun, we deployed Office 2007

2. UAC (User Access Control)

- Are your workstations locked down with your present OS? (Ours weren't)
  - Lots of work to figure out how various applications wrote to the hard drive
    - Where, by whom
  - Thought it would be the major stumbling block (Turned out it wasn't)
    - Transitioned support staff to using administrative accounts anytime they need to do support work (some grumbling, but we've succeeded)
    - Only about 10 end uses have admin accounts

3. Roll Out Method

- Abandoned Ghost in favor of Image X tools for the first time
- All machines were imaged, no upgrades
- Tools for applying updates
  - Windows Server Update Service (WSUS)
  - System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM)
  - We still call them SUS and SMS (Change is hard!)

4. Application Considerations

- Internal Apps
  - Mainly installer re-writes (changed to run time configuration)
- 3rd Party Apps
  - Time was on our side, so most have worked OK, but we still have a few we write custom installers for
- Windows Desktop Search
  - Most compelling component
- Root Cert issue

5. Driver Considerations

- Wait as long as you can
  - Oh wait, the wait is over
- Our biggest issues were
  - Printer drivers
  - Some funky equipment used by the productions shops – graphics and photo
- Most hardware devices have drivers now
  - Those that don't you really need to get rid of

6. 32 Bit vs. 64 Bit

- We are deploying 64 Bit Windows on worthy hardware
    - 64 Bit processor (Duh), 2 GB memory
    - Access to more resources at the application level (i.e. memory)
- Sticking with 32 Bit Office and 32 Bit Internet Explorer
- Internal applications were thoroughly tested
- Most 3rd party apps work out of the box

7. BitLocker

- Lots of trials and tribulations, but we think it's worth it, generally positive
- Every machine with a TPM chip is encrypted (~ 75% of the fleet)
- Major gain on portable computers; but we have lots of user workstations in very public areas
- Recovery key is stored in AD
- Boot order issues