

Microsoft released Windows XP Service Pack 3 (SP3), about 12 months ago, and if you have NOT yet installed it I recommend that you incorporate this now, as it just might fix some problems that you may be having. It includes all previously released updates for the operating system and fills gaps in the updates they might have missed. SP3 is cumulative, so users can install it on top of Windows XP SP1 and SP2 and Windows XP Media Centre Edition.

It is available for download from the Microsoft Web Site and is a large 316MB file. Microsoft will ask you to validate your system (just follow the instructions).

Vista also introduced SP1 a few months ago which included all previously released updates, and with SP2 imminent you should install SP1 as SP2 will only include updates since then. There are improvements and enhancements to existing features but it does not include substantial new operating system features. SP1 is available for download and is a large 435MB file.

## WINDOWS 7

This will now to be released on October 22 and will be shipped out on new computers from this date.

Windows 7 is the easiest, fastest, and interesting version of Windows yet. It will give you better ways to find and manage files, and improved taskbar previews, to help speed you through everyday tasks, and with faster and more reliable performance means your computer works exactly how you want it to. Features will include Windows Media Centre, and Windows Touch, which will enable you to touch and move icons around your Monitor screen, which are now available to purchase. (Very expensive). As you get to know Windows 7 you will find it makes everything a lot easier. Homegroup makes it simple to share music, documents, printers, and everything else with any other PCs running Windows 7 in your house. Windows Search frees you from the chore of hunting through folders and subfolders to locate your stuff. Better Taskbar previews will give you a view of what programs you have open.

Windows 7 supports the latest advances in PC hardware, Like multi-core processors, and improved memory utilization which helps your hardware to reach its full performance.

With not upgrading to Vista when it was released, I am looking forward to Windows 7, and really hope that Microsoft has finally produced an operating system that has been designed round feedback and consultation from those

## RECOVERING SPACE FROM YOUR HARD DRIVE

I have recently had a number of e-mails from members whose hard drives are rapidly filling up and need to recover some space back. One of the problems I referred to in the last issue was of installing software that eventually does not get used, and another problem is the Cache where XP and Vista store DNS (domain name system or service) information which holds a list of Web Sites visited to enable you to revisit these faster each time you want to access them. This Cache sometimes gets corrupted and can store a lot of unusable data which slows down the computer and consequently needs clearing out.

To clear this out go to Start/All programmes/Accessories/Command Prompt – the screen will become black with white print. You will see a “blinking” dash at the end of the C Drive line. At this point, type in exactly ipconfig /flushdns (leave a space after config and before the slash). Press Enter and you will get a message saying “successfully flushed the DNS Resolver Cache”. **Cont.d**

There are a number of other things you can do to recover more hard drive space:

Click on Start/All programmes/Accessories/System Tools/Disk Clean up. Click on OK and wait for the bar to progress and when it finishes you will have a list of tick boxes and descriptions.

Click on Temporary Internet files/click view files then delete all files and folders you see to clean that Cache.

Click on Start/Run and type in the box “%temp%” and when the Window opens showing the list of files go to Edit/Select All then delete all highlighted files which then cleans that Cache (I think you may have done this before.)

Click on the Recycle bin icon on the Desktop and see what you have in that. There could be a lot of files. If you do not want any of them click on “empty the recycle bin” – a message will come up saying “are you sure you want to delete all items in Recycle Bin?” If you say OK this will clear them out and empty the bin. However, should you feel that there could be files in the bin which you may wish to keep, highlight that file(s) and click on “Restore” which puts it back to exactly the place it came from.

## TIPS AND TRICKS

**Start Menu a mess? (XP and V)** - Make it easier to manage and navigate by sorting all your programmes into alphabetical order. Right Click on Start (if you have the Windows Button on your keyboard press this to open Start), click on All Programs (this will open the menu), Right click on any item and select “sort by name.” Vista does this automatically as you install programs.

**Desktop cluttered with shortcut icons? (XP)** - Tidy it automatically by right-clicking anywhere on your Desktop, click on New/Folder. Right click on the Folder/Rename and call it Unused or Little Used Shortcuts. Now click on each Desktop Icon that you use very little and drag it to this Unused Folder. This action does not uninstall anything. By cleaning your Desktop it will help to boot up your computer faster. Should you wish to replace any Shortcut back on the Desktop open up the Folder and

**Mouse Wheel (XP and V)** - If you have a mouse with a scroll wheel hold down (Ctrl) and scroll the wheel away from you to reduce Font size and towards you to increase Font size. This works in both Internet Explorer 7, 8 and Firefox 3 browsers.

## PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 4

If anyone would like the above program, I can arrange for them to have a DVD. This is an excellent Photo Editor and Organiser. It is based on Adobe Photoshop and contains many features of this program.

E-mail address is [lakeside@timewarpuk.net](mailto:lakeside@timewarpuk.net).....Anthony Stroish