

*turning knowledge into practice*

# **Lessons Learned: Migrating to Windows Vista in a Large Scale Survey**

Lewis Caviness, Jason Butler,

James Pratt, Jon Cirella

IFD&TC

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3040 Cornwallis Road ■ P.O. Box 12194 ■ Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA 27709

# Introduction

- Overview of Windows Vista
- Current survey requirements
- Field Test with Windows Vista
- Conclusion
- Q & A

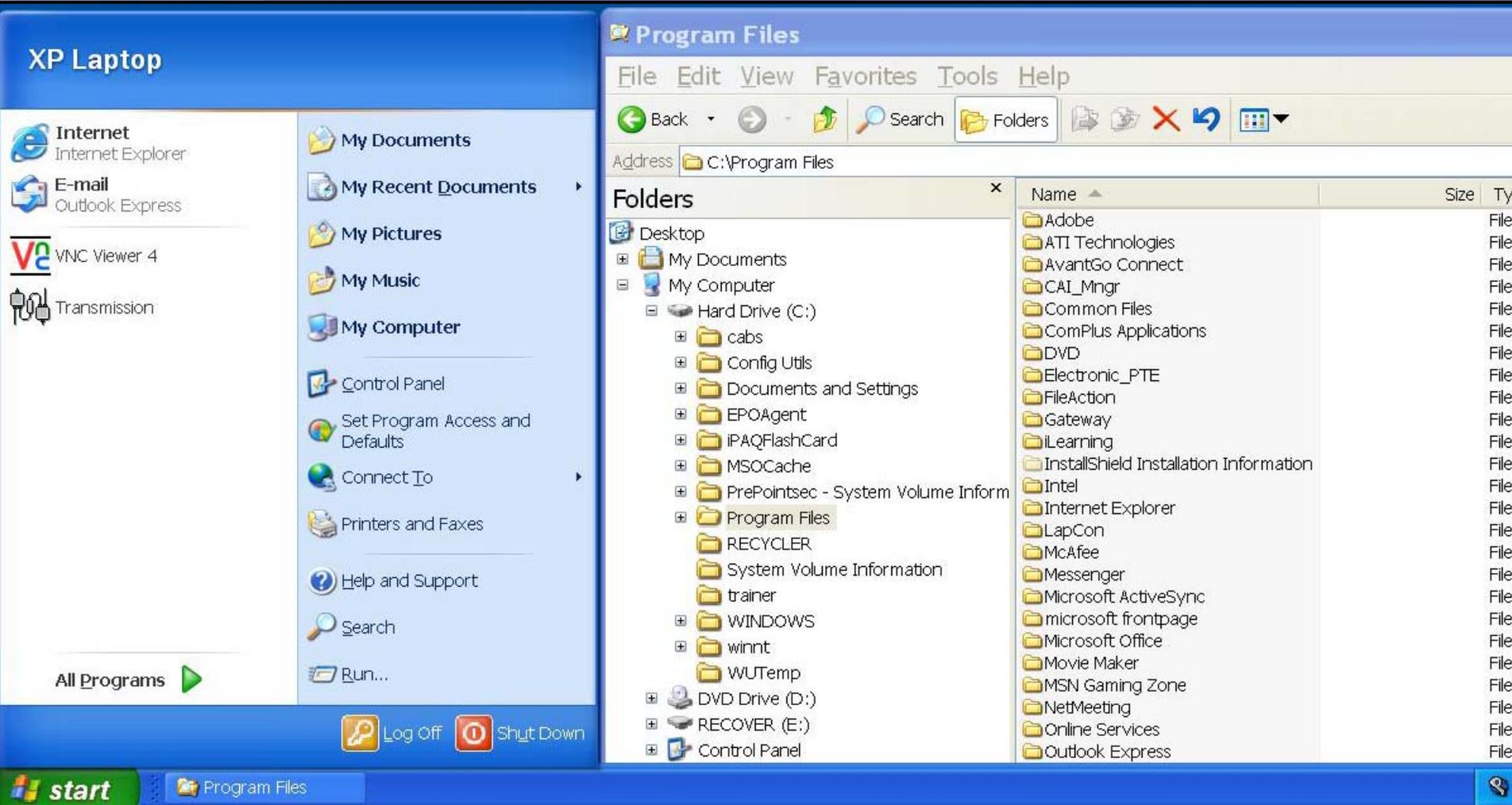
# Windows Vista - History

- Released in January, 2007
- First new operating system in five years
- First major change to an OS since Windows 3.11 to 95
- Successor to Windows XP
  - Primary purpose to correct security vulnerabilities in XP
  - Updated user interface and graphical style

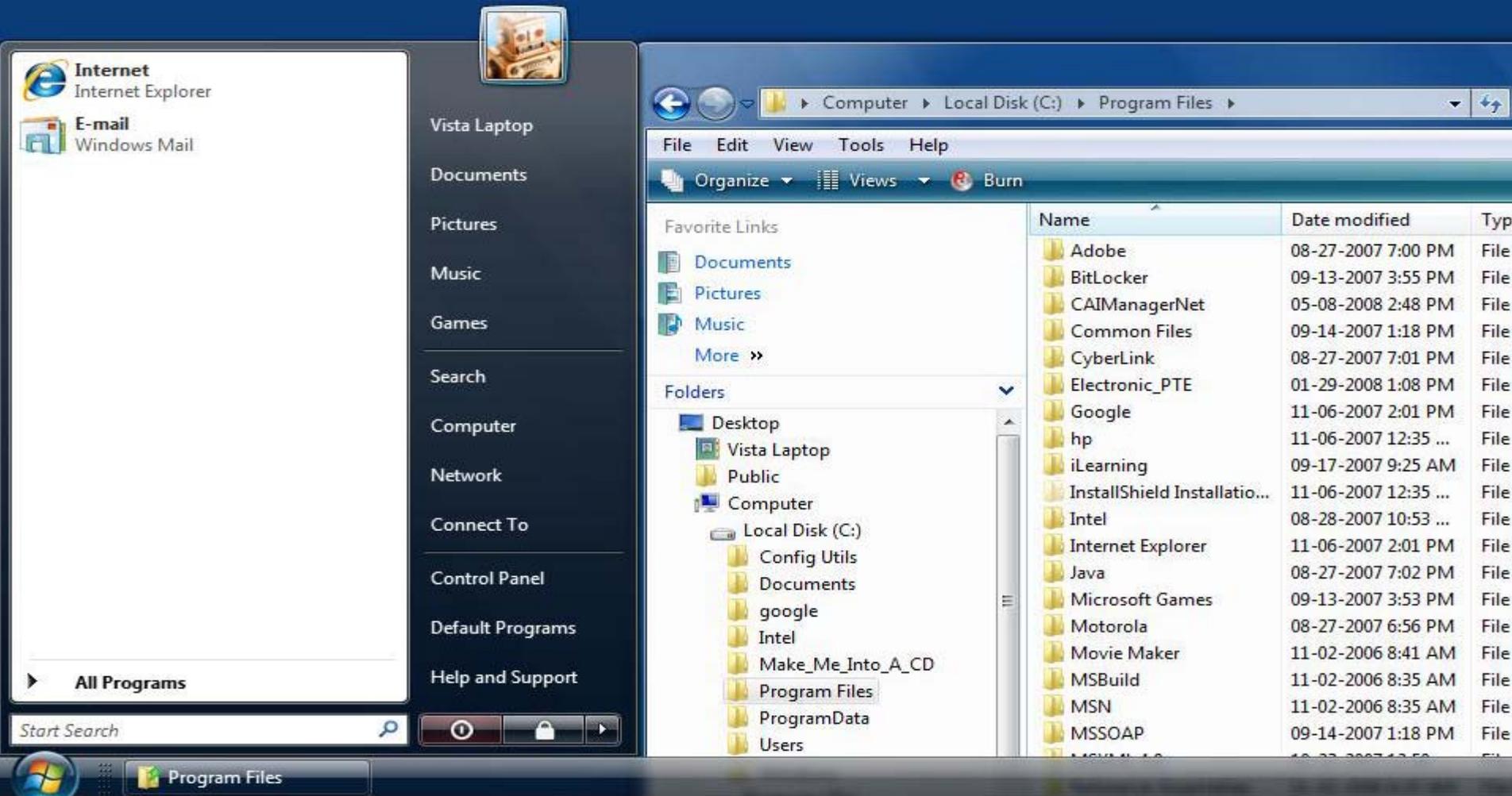
# Windows Vista - Reviews

- Received mixed reviews on release
- Positive Features
  - Stronger security – Windows Defender and malware detection
  - Greater stability – few system crashes
  - Networking enhancements – especially wireless networking
  - Incorporates IPv6, the next generation TCP/IP
  - Includes new graphics, Aero

# Windows XP



# Windows Vista - Aero



# Windows Vista - Reviews

- Negative Features
  - System requirements demanded greater system resources than that required for Windows XP
  - Too many editions compared to XP
  - Not complete – service pack in works not long after release
  - More expensive. Vista Ultimate - \$270.00
- Bottom line for many reviewers was that Windows XP was good enough, but Vista was a good move only if getting a new PC

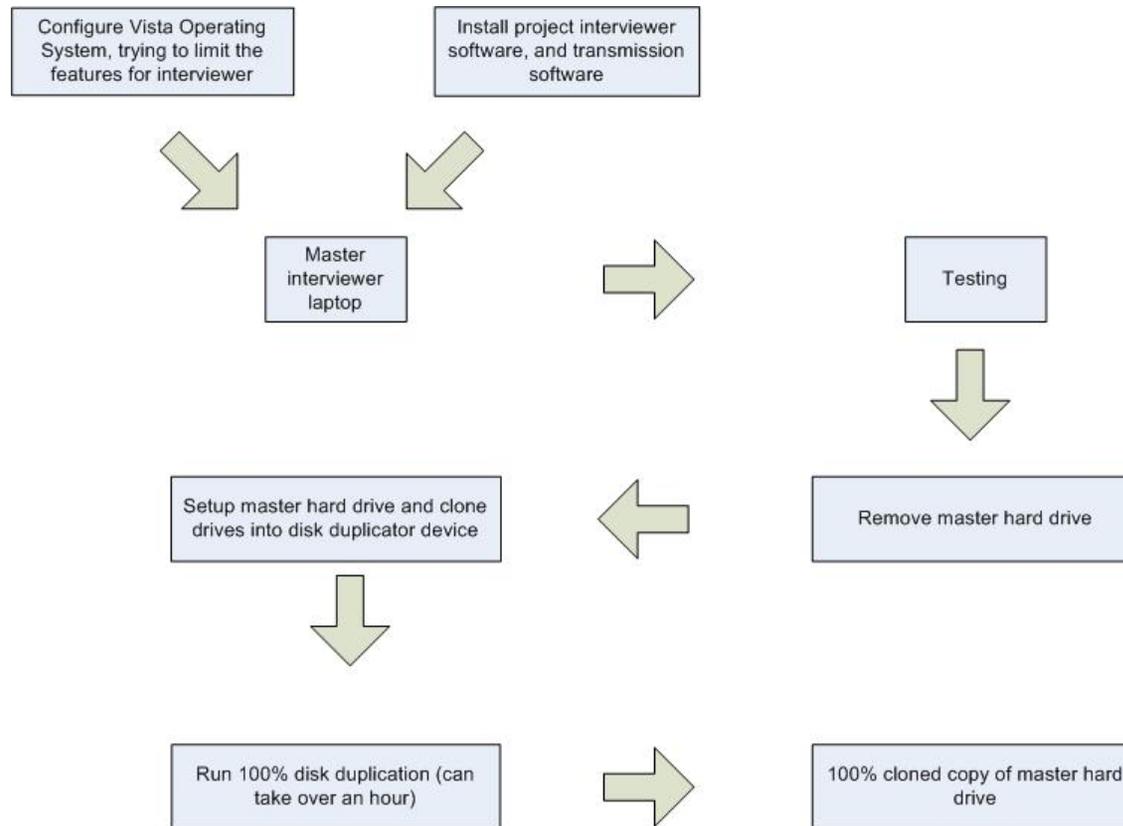
# Current Survey Requirements

- National survey conducted by RTI in all 50 states and District of Columbia
  - 70,000 interviews conducted each year
  - 700 Field Interviewers and 60 supervisors
- Screenings conducted with handheld computer
- Interviews conducted with laptop computer
- Screening and Interview data transmitted to RTI via analog phone line

# New Equipment Field Test

- Current fleet aging and scheduled for replacement in 2009
- In January 2008, conducted a field test to evaluate new hardware
- Objectives included evaluating new operating systems
- Decided to include Windows Vista as part of the field test

# Preparation of Field Test laptop



# Windows Vista - Field Test

- Immediate benefits:
  - Unlike XP, Vista installs drivers for USB devices on all USB ports
  - Boot up time 15% faster than Windows XP
- Problems encountered:
  - Interview software took 30% longer to load than in Windows XP
  - Security pop-ups from “User Account Control” required an administrator password for a new program to run. Had to turn off through a global registry setting
  - New version of Mail client required minor changes to interview software

# Windows Vista - Field Test (cont.)

- Current software not compatible with Vista:
  - First project to work with Vista – RTI did not yet have Vista versions of software
  - Needed new versions of disk encryption and anti-virus software.
  - Vista includes **BitLocker**, a hard disk encryption program, but it required a **Trusted Platform Module (TPM)** chip, which was not available in the laptop we tested.
  - RTI has since procured Vista compatible versions, but they are less stable than XP versions.

# Windows Vista - Field Test (cont.)

- Creating interviewer laptops took longer with Vista:
  - Use disk duplicator to copy the hard drive from master laptop to the hard drives of the interviewer laptops
  - With Windows XP, duplicator copies only active data and operating system files – takes around 10 minutes
  - Disk duplicator does not recognize hard drives with Vista installed
  - To copy a Vista hard drive, had to do a 100% copy – 60 GB hard drive takes around 30 minutes

# Windows Vista - Field Test (cont.)

- Windows Mobile Device Center (WMDC):
  - ActiveSync was replaced by WMDC
  - ActiveSync and WMDC are used to connect the handheld device with the laptop
  - WMDC was a step back from ActiveSync and had less functionality. Features such as backup and restore, wireless sync, and synchronization of mail, calendar and address book were removed.
  - With ActiveSync we could treat all of the iPAQs as one device, and only had to create one connection. WMDC treated each iPAQ as a new device. Any time a new iPAQ was connected, WMDC had to create a new connection.

# Windows Vista - Field Test (cont.)

- Licensing Issues:
  - 5 different editions – which version is appropriate?
  - Ultimate has the most features and was used during the field test.
  - Ultimate does not support Volume License Keys, which is a huge drawback because of quantity of laptops involved.
  - Business version supports VLK, but does not include BitLocker

# Conclusions

- The pros did not outweigh the cons:
  - RTI had decided to stay with Windows XP, and not move to Vista
  - Current interview software was stable and ran well under Windows XP. Applications required clunky software workarounds in order to run under Vista.
  - Vista Ultimate could be downgraded to Windows XP
- Decision: purchase equipment that is Windows Vista ready, but run Windows XP instead. Leaves option open to upgrade to Vista at a later date.

# Q&A

Any questions?