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More Windows 8 News

Windows 8 continues to be a mixed blessing and there are features that I definitely like in it. Of the half dozen installations that I have done so far it is remarkable how many people have asked me to convert it to become a Windows 7 look alike. While Windows 8 is a little faster on start-up and file copies and has a number of solid features, the new Windows Metro interface is initially a little jarring for many people. At the same time I can see where a tablet with touch screen would work well.

A number of people, that I have talked to, have picked up a Windows 8 Tablet over the holidays and seem pleased with it. Microsoft, Samsung, Asus and others have such tablets available for about $600 many of which come with an optional keyboard and case as well. A Windows tablet will in most cases come with a USB port to make interfacing with your other devices, files and software a little easier too.

This will likely open the door to interesting wireless interfaces to smart TV's and such. A tablet is ideal for this. The removable and replaceable keyboard would be ideal for a couple of my nieces and nephews who seem to destroy the ones on their laptops. With the better tablets launching with 64gb of storage, Windows 8 tablets will definitely put a further dent in laptop sales, not to mention Apple's i-Pad sales which was the intention all along.

Other Windows 8 features include a new cloud based profile that may function in a similar way to Apple's i-Cloud. This becomes more important when individuals acquire multiple Windows 8 devices. If you have a Desktop, Tablet and Windows phone for example you will be able to synchronize contacts and documents automatically via the Internet.

All in all Windows 8 is a positive development for Microsoft in dealing with Apple's influence and it should raise the bar in the competition.

PC's vs Apple – A New Chapter

While I do most of my work on PC's I do some work on Apple's for a few clients. I often jokingly refer to Apple computers as "PC's for Dummies" and they are definitely harder to break from an Operating System perspective. That is part of the reason that there are fewer viruses in the Apple world. It's just a lot harder to write anything for an Apple and hence the hackers go after the easier and bigger target.

When you do need to do certain functional things however, the Apple is, in many cases, more difficult to work with. Some processes that would take me mere minutes to configure on a PC seem to take hours to configure on a Mac. There are fewer settings that you can change and that also means less flexibility.

Still, Apple has had some distinct advantages in recent years that has made them something of a status symbol for the younger set. The common Apple interface from the i-Phone to the i-Pad, i-Mac and Mac Book is definitely cool. Because Apple has no direct Apple hardware competitor they have been able to keep both prices and quality levels fairly high as well and styling has always been their forte.

Recent Windows hardware developments and some very sophisticated advertising for the new Windows 8 products, like the Microsoft Surface Tablet, seem to be aimed directly at the University crowd. The new Windows 8 Metro Interface is one that has fewer options and settings and thus is a little harder to break. In this way Microsoft seems to be taking a page out of the Apple playbook.

For those of us that like or need to get down and dirty and keep older apps working, the presence of the old familiar Desktop Mode keeps us in the game at the same time. Now if they would only give me back my start menu. Start8 is a reasonable alternative for the time being and has a few neat options as well.