

FEBRUARY 2010 –

UPGRADING YOUR COMPUTER: A lot of people want to know if they can upgrade their current computer instead of having to purchase a new one. In many cases, the answer is yes. That is if you have a computer that is compatible to be upgraded to certain operating systems.

Right now, since Windows 7 has arrived and has gotten respectable reviews, many people ask if they can upgrade to it. The answer is, 'probably, but with a few other needs in order to do so'.

If you have a computer with Windows Vista, then the answer is assuredly, yes. Any computer that runs Windows Vista ought to run Windows 7 with no issues. You will want to check and make sure that Windows 7 has the correct working drivers that you need on your computer. Audio, Video, Network, Modem, etc. drivers. Windows 7 has been pretty good about that, so far.

Can you upgrade from Windows XP to Windows 7? Usually, but you will have to make sure of a few things. First of all, you would want to have, at least, 1gb of memory. You could get by with a little bit less, but not much. Also, you would probably want a decent size hard drive, because the application of Windows 7 is quite a bit larger than XP. I would say nothing less than 80gb and probably a bit larger, if possible. And again, make sure that there are drivers available and compatible with your computer and Windows 7 (or Vista) depending on what you want to upgrade to.

Any computer that is originally installed with something before Windows XP, I would not recommend upgrading any higher than one operating system in the release cycle of operating systems. Below will be a list of operating systems in the reverse order in which they were released.

Upgrading other parts of the computer can be done, but some computers have limits on how high you can upgrade. For instance, some computers will only allow a certain amount of memory capacity. Before purchasing more memory, make sure of your computer's capacity.

Upgrading a CD-Rom to a DVD-Rom is fine and dandy. But if you plan to watch DVD's on your computer, make sure you have enough memory to run it. Playing DVD's uses a lot of memory. If you are able to run a DVD, it is best to reboot your computer on completion. This helps restore your computer's memory.

Hard drives can be upgraded to larger hard drives in most computers, these days. If you have an old computer, say 10 years or more, you may want to check and see if it will support a larger hard drive.

Here is how Microsoft operating systems were released in reverse order: Windows 7; Windows Vista; Windows XP; Windows 2000; Windows ME (Millennium); Windows 98; Windows 95.

NEXT MONTH- Computer Terminology