

Project Plan

What P.C operation system is better and more reliable, windows vista or windows XP?

Purpose

I have decided to chose this particular question for the fact that there is a lot ^{to} explore, study and research on the subject and I feel that the question I have chosen may relate to the IT Foundation Diploma I am currently studying which involves a number of IT topics so therefore may correlate with my question which is also based on IT (so may give me more information and a better understanding of the question and research).

What I expect to learn from my question

I expect to cover a wide range of different topics regarding both windows vista and windows XP. I will also expect to learn and find out all the different perspectives on the subject, discover the outcomes for the different experiments I will test on both the systems, find out what the pros and cons are for both systems, learn how different individuals for example IT technicians can improve both systems and generally just develop broader and wider understanding of the two systems.

My objectives

My objective is to find out which computer operating system is better and more reliable. I will do this through

- Experiments on both operation systems
- Gathering quotes and thoughts from others on both systems
- Looking at both the benefits and limitations of the systems
- Researching the solutions for the limitations of both systems
- General research on the internet and in books

From my findings I will put together an:

- Introduction
- Main area of the report
- Conclusion
- Suggest recommendations on how both systems can be improved
- Evaluate my work, what I did wrong and what I did right
- Create graphs that will compare both sides of the question

What skills I would like develop

Whilst working on my project I would personally like to develop my

- Organisation skills
- Researching skills
- Writing skills
- IT skills
- Comparing and validating skills

How I will research

I will carry out my research using both primary and secondary research methods. I will explore the internet and study different books to discover more information on different people's opinions on my question, this will be secondary information. In addition I will also use primary methods by creating a questionnaire and giving it out for finding out on what different people feel about the different operation systems.

My resources

The resources I will use to get my information to support the project


- Questionnaires
- Books
- Internet
- IT technicians perspectives
- Different individuals how they find using both the operating system

What contingencies have I allowed for?

Whilst working on my project to avoid silly mistakes I will personally check my work every 10 minutes as I feel computers can't always be as reliable as a person for example if you use the wrong word in the wrong context but spell it right spell check wont always tell you and it could make no sense, In addition to this I will save my work at the same time just in case of any inconveniences I will also back up my work on another computer or a another memory device such as a USB because if something unexpected happens to the computer you still have your work saved on the other one or a memory device further more I will try and stick to my plan of the project to avoid myself drifting off the point or writing to much unnecessary information. I will also try and keep to the time schedule I will set myself to avoid missing deadlines and to keep the time for all the topics in the project evenly distributed depending on which is more important.

My outcome presentation

I intend on presenting my out come in:

- Graphs
 - Evidence from my questionnaire
 - Quotes
 - Spreadsheets
 - Essays
- 

How I will evaluate my outcome:

I will evaluate my findings using my action plan. My action plan will explain what I did, when I completed and how I could improve it in the comments section. This information will relate to my evaluation as the information put in the action plan is similar to that put in the evaluation. My evaluation will contain information about what I did, when I did it, how I did and what problems I had with doing it so therefore I can paste information from my action plan in to my evaluation which will make it easier to complete my evaluation and save time.

Introduction

The question I have chosen for my project is: **What P.C operation system is better and more reliable, windows vista or windows XP?**

I will carry out my research using both primary and secondary research methods. I will explore the internet and study different books to discover more information on different people's opinions on my question, this will be secondary information. In addition I will also use primary/quantitative methods by creating a questionnaire and giving it out for finding out on what different people feel about the different operation systems.

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My resources

The resources I will use to get my information to support the project will contain primary secondary

- Questionnaires
- Books
- Internet
- IT technicians perspectives
- Different individuals how they find using both the operating system

Main Body

Research resource: IT Expert

Reliability (both systems put to the test)

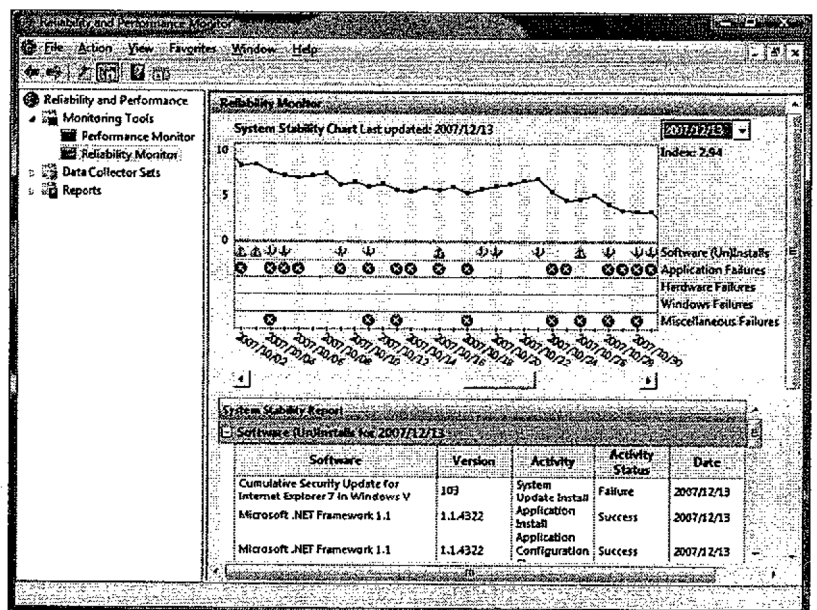
Whilst on the lookout for research for my project I came across an IT specialist, Mr Edward (manager of an IT computing company in Beckenham) who had both operational systems and was examining them to discover which system was more reliable on equally able workstation. He used both operational systems for one week each to do the general things he would when usually using a computer to find out which worked better and was more reliable. I noted down his results and thoughts of what he discovered when using both operational systems.

When using the latest internet service (Internet Explorer 7) on windows XP he found that it never crashed or paused once whilst opening different websites and applications whereas when he used vista it slightly paused sometimes and on one occasion crashed

“When it comes to the internet I would have to say Microsoft windows XP is more reliable than vista. I say this as I experienced a few problems whilst using vista to surf the internet and open applications. Firstly when using the latest internet service, internet explorer 7 on vista there were slight pauses as I opened different applications and in one case the computer crashed as whilst an application was opened that hadn't been saved. I felt this showed me vista unpredictability, however on the other hand XP worked smoothly. Throughout the entire period I used it. I never experienced one problem when using XP apart from when it paused rarely, which is why I felt it was more reliable.”

The reliability report on vista is a tool that measures and records how reliable your computer is based on the number of crashes and pauses that have occurred in a period of time in the form of text graphs and charts.

Mr Edwards's initial thoughts, at first sighting of the reliability report were that “it sounds like an appropriate solution to vista unreliability.” But when he used for a week he found that it wasn't as good as reliable as he originally thought.



“When using vistas reliability report I found that it only recorded some of the pauses that occurred but failed to notice most of them and was also unsuccessful in recording the crash that took place. I thought this showed the reliability report wasn't dependable, however I feel

this was a good attempt by Microsoft in finding a solution for unreliability, and I also feel it would be a feature that would benefit XP if it was installed on it despite its faults.

Control-Alt-Delete is a computer keyboard command that can be used to reboot the computer, and summon the task manager or Windows Security in more recent versions of the Microsoft Windows operating system such as Windows Vista.

Mr Edwards thought that Ctrl-Alt-Del would have the same effect on both operational systems before he used it but he realised that it had a greater effect of XP than it did on vista.

"When using Ctrl-Alt-Del I noticed a difference between the effectiveness on both systems. On vista when I used this Ctrl-Alt-Del close down a program as a pause had occurred, it wouldn't let me and so I had to close down everything including a window I hadn't saved. This was unreliable whereas on XP as soon as I ended a task it closed immediately."

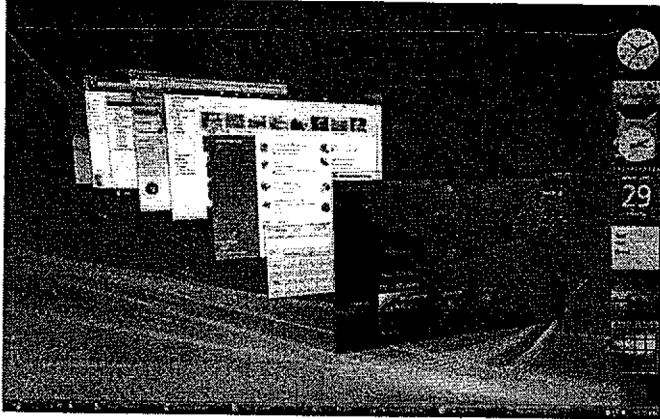
After I had noted down some of the results to the tests he had carried out I asked Mr Edwards if he was biased with the results he had recorded as from the ones I recorded they all seemed to support XP. "No I feel I was very fair in the judgements I made and in the experiment I carried out, both computers were as able as each other so both operational system had equal opportunities to show what they could do and they did, furthermore if I was to be biased about my experiment it would be to vistas advantage as I genuinely preferred vista to XP before this experiment".

Research resource = internet (my own words form research I collected off the internet)

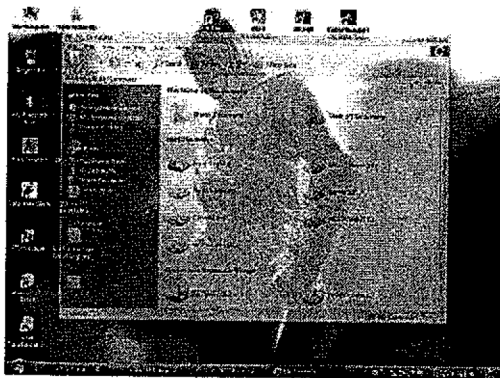
Windows Vista advantages to XP

Aero & 3D Effect

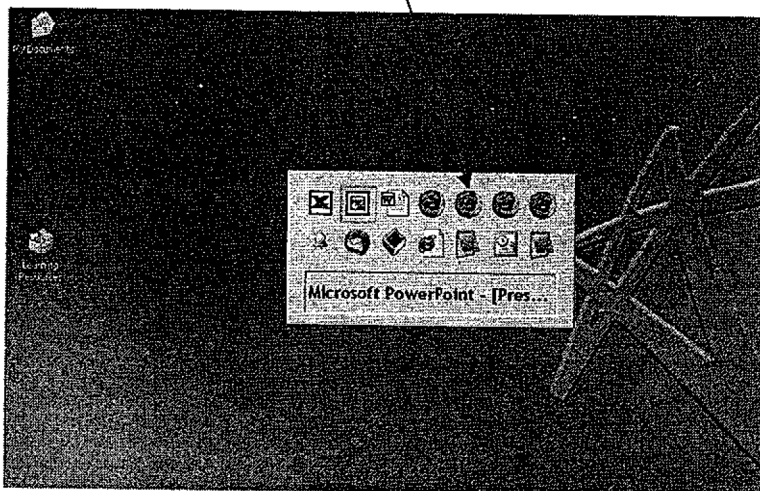
Windows Vista has introduced a 3D effect feature known as aero. This allows a user to view the opened windows as 3D which may make it easier for a user to distinguish the different windows opened.



Aero also gives the task bars a translucent effect look maybe to make it look more attractive.

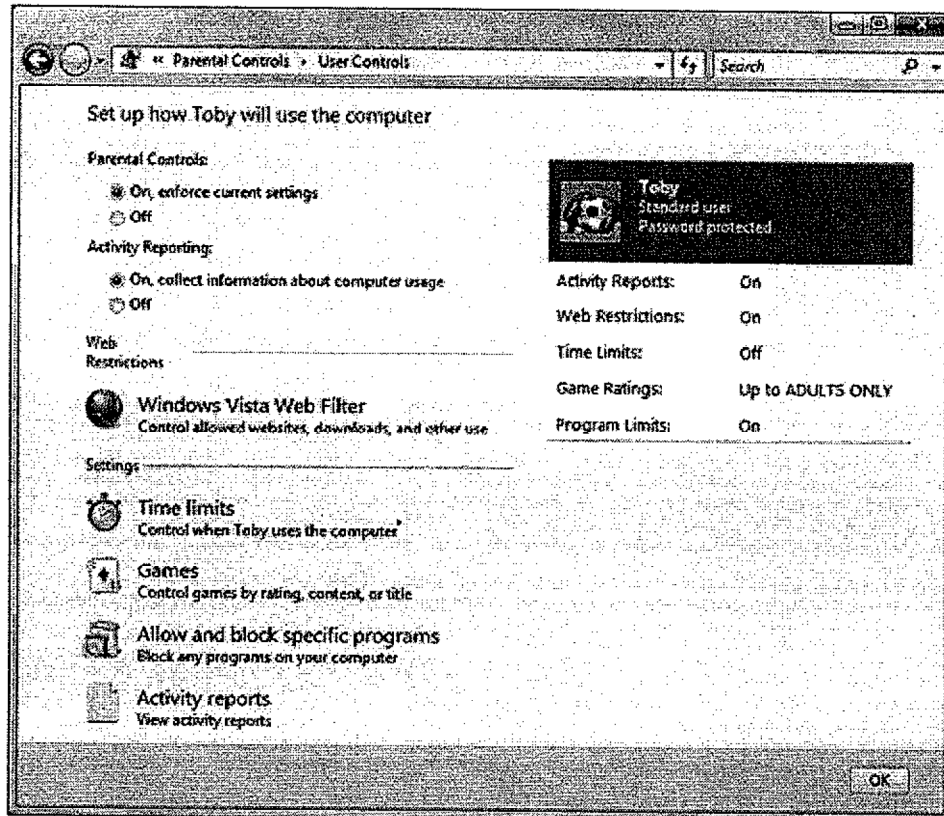


This feature is not present in Windows XP, instead windows XP has a maybe more confusing method of separating windows (as shown below) when there are many windows open. People may find it confusing as when many windows are open it is hard to tell which is which for example if a number of internet windows are open you may not be able to tell the difference as they all look the same like in the image below.



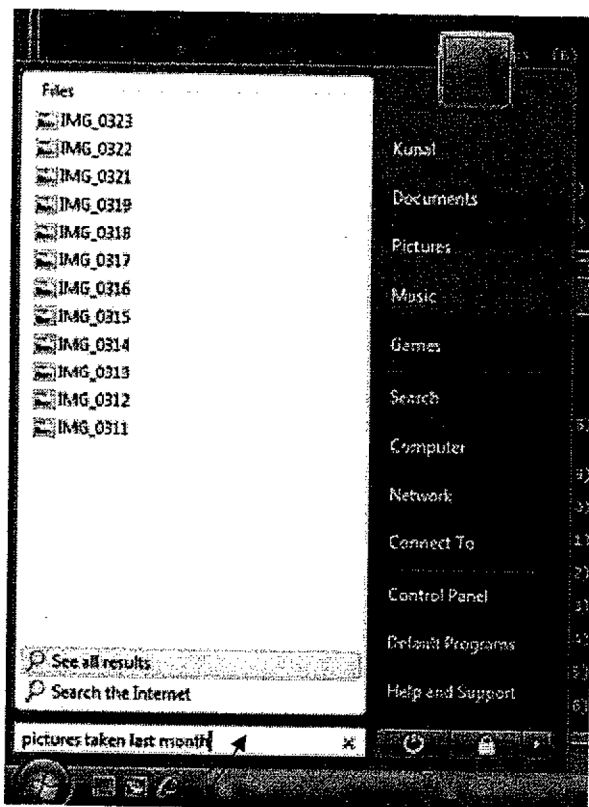
Parental Control

Vista has new feature called parental control, this allows parents to take control of their children's activity on the computer by allowing them to deny access to various games, deny access to their user space and allowing them to deny access to the internet this feature is not present in Microsoft XP.

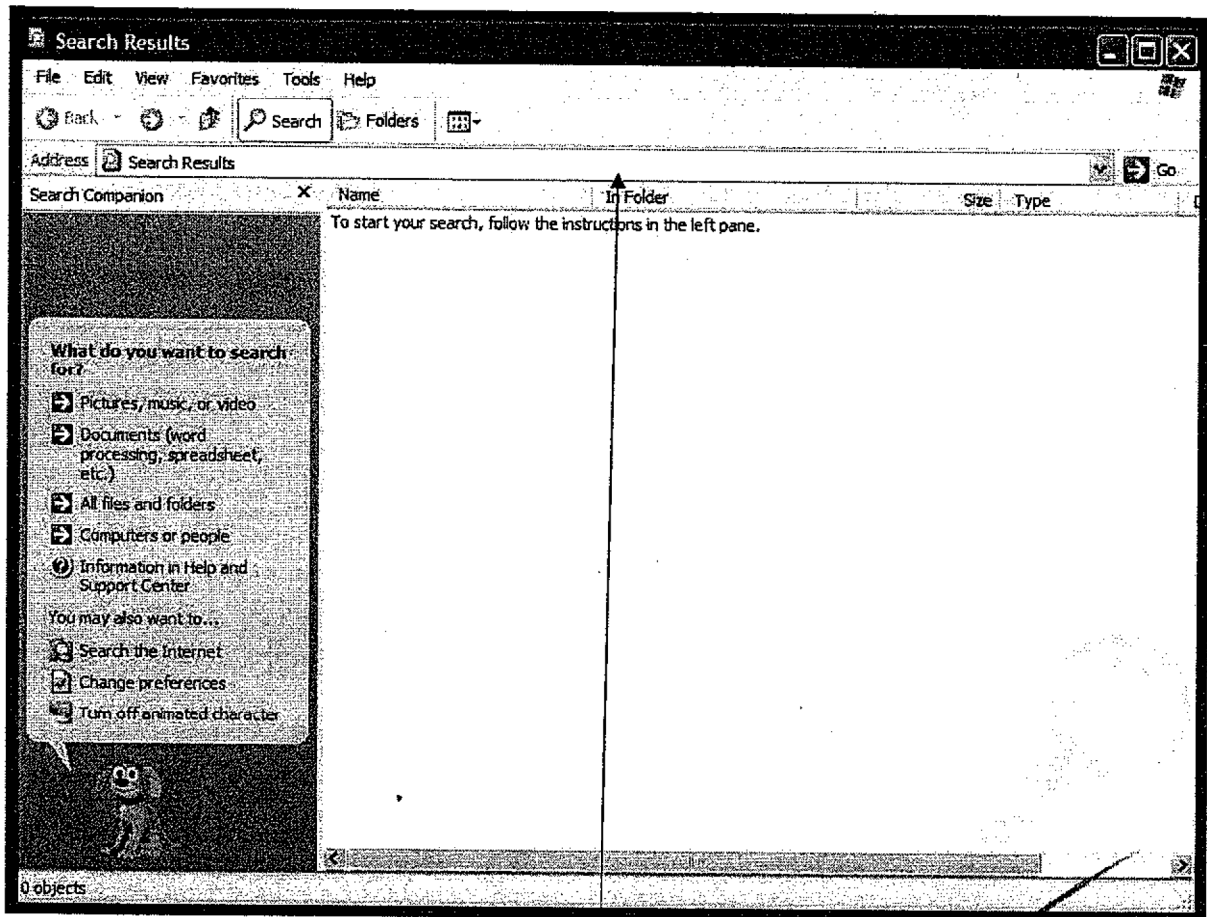


Improved search, Windows Explorer

when using windows vista to search for a file or program it has feature that will bring up the result for your search as soon as you type in a few letter from the word in the search box. The files get filtered out according to the letter you type in which makes the search quicker to. Windows XP searching system is slower as you have to type in the full name of the file before you search which can sometimes take very long as the search goes through all the files on the computer.



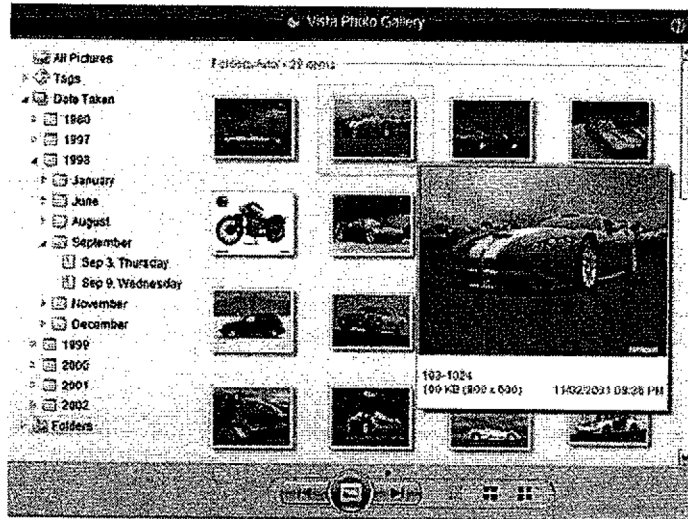
Vista search system



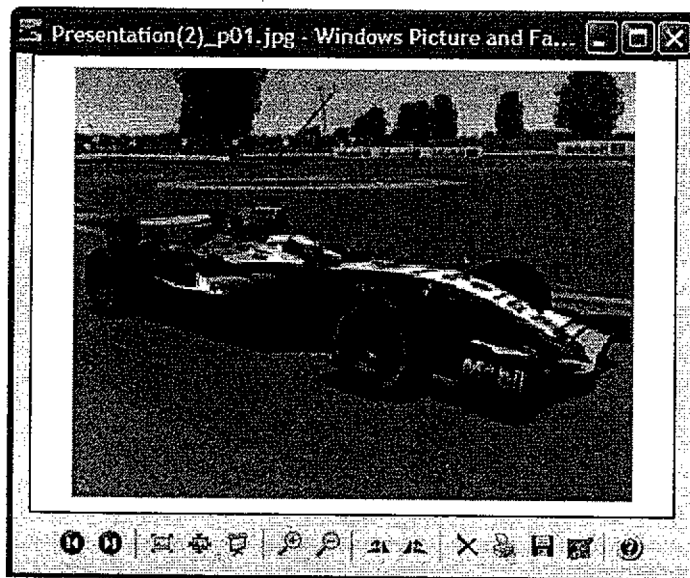
Windows XP search system

Manage your photos using photo gallery:

Window vista has a new tool called photo gallery which manages digital photos. When using the tool you can modify photos and preview movie files this is a feature which wasn't in XP instead XP uses windows picture and fax viewer. Additionally using the photo gallery tool also allows you to transfer and share the photos from the computer to devices such as mobile phones and PDA's.



Vistas photo gallery



Windows picture and fax viewer

Windows XP advantages to Vista

Requirements high, too hot deal:

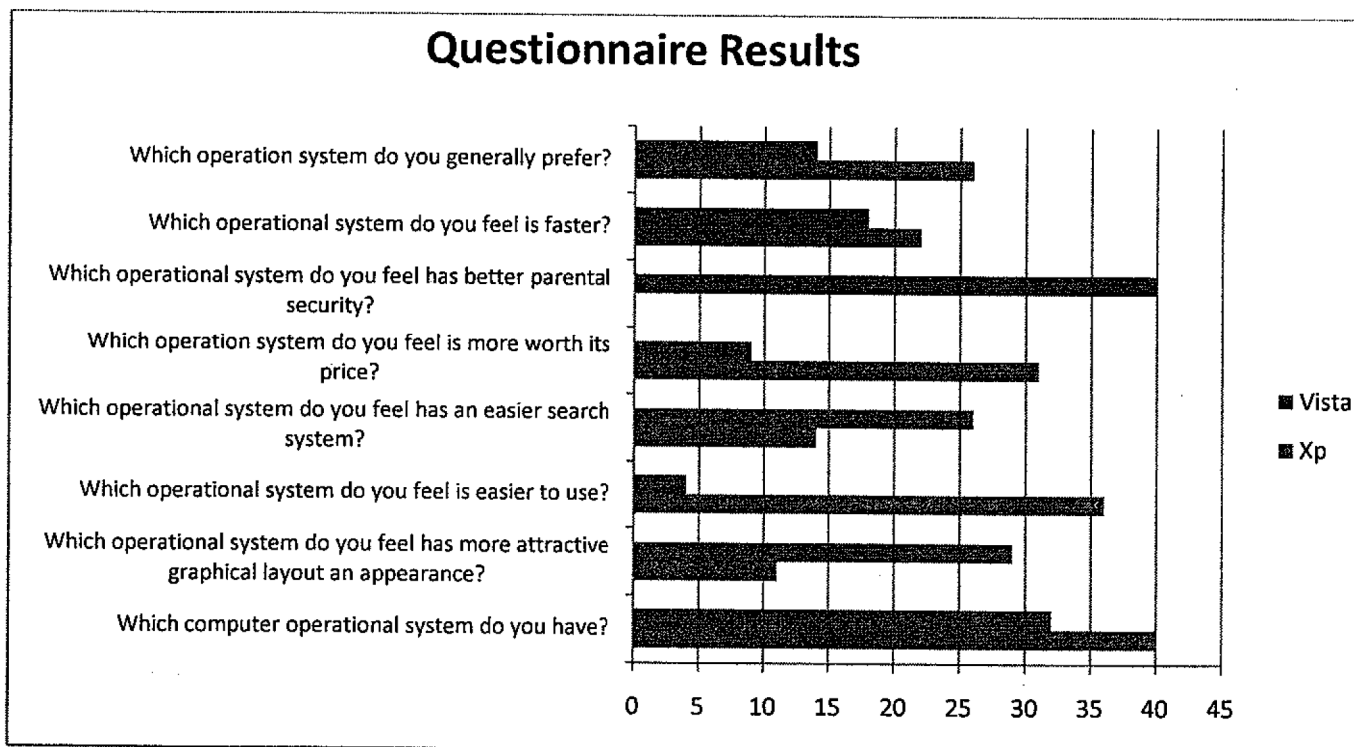
Windows vista requires an excellent computer for it to run smoothly on, as it has a lot of requirements. For vistas aero 3D effect (shown in the advantages of vista section of my work) to work you must purchase a graphic card for the computer which has to be of high quality and may be expensive whereas, on XP you can use it on any computer without a graphic card. Vista also has a minimum required hard disk space of 20GB for installation whereas XP can be installed on to a cheaper hard drive of 5 to 10GB.

Regarding price

The price for windows vista is very high Compared to XP despite the fact that there not so much different in performance which is why XP is regarded more worth its money than XP.

Installation in old computers

If you decide to install windows vista on an old computer system, then you have to check the compatibility of the systems components, checking whether Vista supports them or not, as if vista doesn't then you may have of bought (at high the price it's sold at for) for nothing as it won't work due to its requirements, were as XP can even be installed on old systems, also XP and vista are very similar in performance but have some features separate them on so there wouldn't be much difference apart from XP costing less.



This is a graph to the questionnaire I carried out.

Review

WHICH OPERATIONAL SYSTEM IS MORE RELIABLE

For my research on reliability I used an IT specialist (Mr Edward [redacted] as my resource. He was experimenting on the two operational systems testing reliability. He tested many aspects of both operational systems but I only noted down some of his thoughts on the features he tested with both operational systems. When using the internet he felt XP was more reliable due to the errors that occurred when he used vista (the system crashed) where as when he used XP it didn't crash once for the entire time he was experimenting.

He also tested a feature he discovered whilst using vista called the reliability report tool this measured and recorded how reliable the computer was based on the number of crashes and pauses that occurred in a period of time in the form of text graphs and charts. When he first discovered it he thought that "it sounded like a an appropriate solution to some of vista unreliability", but when he started to use it he learnt that it wasn't as good as he thought as he thought so mentioned it. "When using vistas reliability report I found that it only recorded some of the pauses that occurred but failed to notice most of them and was also unsuccessful in recording the crash that took place. I thought this showed the reliability report wasn't dependable", despite this he also complemented Microsoft for creating such a feature and felt that it could also assist XP even though it had some faults. "This was a good attempt by Microsoft in finding a solution for unreliability, and I also feel it would be a feature that would benefit XP if it was installed on it despite its faults".

Lastly I also noted down one more feature he had made comments on that both feature had. This feature was called Ctrl-Alt-Del, which is a computer keyboard command that can be used to reboot the computer, and summon the task manager. He thought when using this feature it worked better on XP as he didn't experience any faults where as when he used vista he had to close down all his windows without saving them to end one task. "On vista when I used this Ctrl-Alt-Del close down a program as a pause had occurred, it wouldn't let me and so I had to close down everything including a window I hadn't saved."

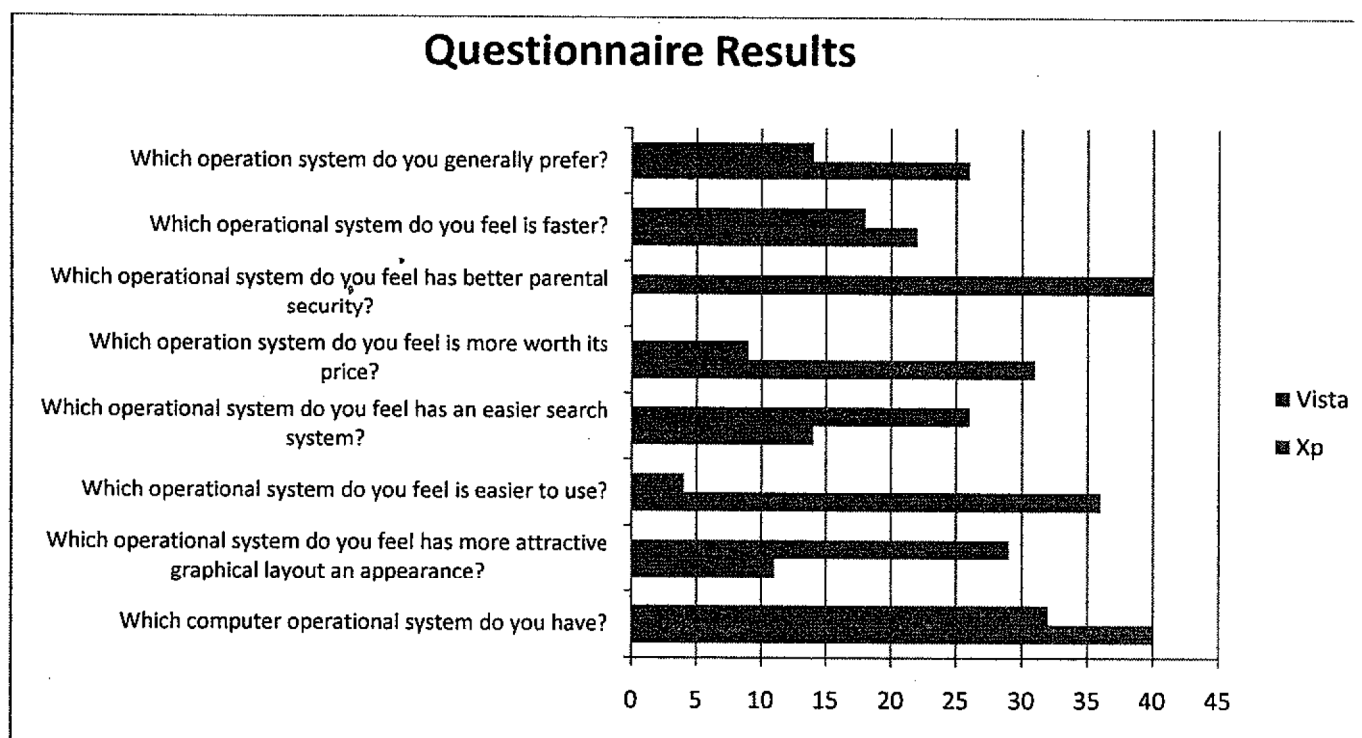
As a result of his comments I asked him if it was a biased test or whether he may of preferred vista he "No I feel I was very fair in the judgements I made and in the experiment I carried out, both computers were as able as each other so both operational system had equal opportunities to show what they could do and they did, furthermore if I was to be biased about my experiment it would be to vistas advantage as I genuinely preferred vista to XP before this experiment".

After Mr [redacted] results I concluded that windows XP was more reliable than vista as the experiments clearly proved that, you could argue that he could have been biased and was not a reliable resource but he clearly stated that before the experiment he genuinely preferred vista and I chose him as I thought he was a reliable source since he is a manager of a computing repair company.

WHICH COMPARING THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS

When comparing both the advantages and the disadvantages of both the operational systems I found that I couldn't separate XP and Vista as I found an equal number of both advantages and disadvantages for them both so they cancelled each other out and I couldn't tell which one was generally better though this source of research.

Questionnaire analysis



I handed I gave my questionnaire out to 50 individuals but only got 40 back as some people didn't hand them back. But from the results I gathered I can see and conclude that everyone thought vista had better parental security and more attractive graphical appearance on the other hand more people generally preferred XP, more people thought that XP was faster, more people thought XP was more worth its price and more people found it easier to use however this could have been because more people from the ones that took my questionnaire had XP but even so the difference between XP and vista wasn't significant enough to say it was because more people had vista. So I would have to say in my opinion if it is based on this g this graph people generally preferred vista.

What I have learnt from my question

I have learnt a wide range of different topics regarding both windows vista and windows XP such as the different features I have included in my main body. I have also learnt and found out the different perspectives of the two operational systems additionally I also have noted down the results for an experiments an IT technician took that compared the two system and learnt how each system works when put to the test.

Where my objectives successful

- Experiments on both operation systems. **Yes experiments were made on both operational systems but not by me as I would of liked but with an IT technician with more experience**
- Gathering quotes and thoughts from others on both systems. **Yes as I have gathered comments from the IT specialist and quoted them in my main body and review.**
- Looking at both the benefits and limitations of the systems. **Yes I did look at both benefits and limitation of both system as shown in my main body but not as much as I would have liked**
- General research on the internet and in books. **Yes I did do some general research on the internet to gather some benefits and limitations but couldn't find any books comparing the two operational systems**

What skills I developed

Whilst working on my project I would personally like to develop my

- Organisation skills.-**I used organisational skills when planning my work and completing parts of it.**
- Researching skills.-**I used researching skill when searching the internet for any information on both operational system.**
- Writing skills.- I used writing skill throughout my when writing it
- IT skills.- I used it skill on programs such as excel when gathering quantitative data through my questionnaire.

Bibliography

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[XP/](#)

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vista>

<http://www.bestsecuritytips.com/xfsection+art>

[icle.articleid+107.htm](#)

Appendices



XP or VISTA, which do you prefer? Tell us what you think in this questionnaire.

	Criteria	XP	Vista	None
1	Which computer operational system do you have?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Which operational system do you feel is more attractive graphical layout an appearance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Which operational system do you feel is easier to use?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Which operational system do you feel has an easier search system?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Which operation system do you feel is more worth its price?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Which operational system do you feel has better parental security?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Which operational system do you feel is faster?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Which operation system do you generally prefer?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

The Speed of the OS depends on the hardware and other software installed on the system. Generally XP is more stable and better tested than Vista.



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