

# The Byte-Line – a Newsletter

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## Five Vista/Win7 Tips –



1. For Windows Vista you can change the way the user access control feature works. Click on the start button and in the search field type UAC and then click on the result. Use the slider to change the way UAC works.



2. You can bring the quick launch toolbar that ended with Windows 7 by right clicking the taskbar and then choosing **toolbars** and **new toolbar**. In the folders section (dialogue) ensure this information is showing and then click okay:

`%userprofile%\1\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch`

Turn off the “lock the Taskbar” setting and then right click on the divider. Disable **show text** and **show title** and make sure the view chosen is *small icons*. Use the divider to change the toolbar ordering the way you like it and then lock the Taskbar when finished.

3. You can launch any program in administrator mode in Windows 7 by holding down the shift and control keys at the same time as you click on the programs icon.
4. You can speed up the way Vista starts by turning off the welcome screen. This is simple to do, take a look for a checkbox at the bottom left of the welcome screen. Uncheck the box that says “run at start-up”.
5. Upgrade to Windows 7 if your running Vista!



## Five XP Tips –



1. Make Windows XP run faster by cleaning up your hard drive. Download and install CCleaner by clicking [here](#). Click the “run cleaner” button in the lower right-hand corner of the application. On the left side

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<sup>1</sup> %userprofile% is your user name on the computer, i.e., Dick, Jane etc.

- click on the registry icon and then the scan for issues button. When the scan is complete click on “fix selected issues” icon. A window will appear asking if you want to back up changes to the registry, your choice yes or no. The next window as a button that says “fix all selected issues” click on that. When it's done click on the close button.
2. To quickly minimize all open Windows hold **down** the Windows key and the letter M.
  3. To quickly launch Task Manager hold down these three keys CTRL+Alt+Delete.
  4. To speed up Windows XP without adding more memory or a faster hard drive right click on the “My Computer” icon and choose properties. Look for the “Advanced” tab and click on that and then the “Settings” button in the “Performance” section. Choose the option “Adjust for best performance”.
  5. XP has a useless feature called the “Desktop Clean-up Wizard”. You can get rid of this by right clicking on a blank area of your desktop and choosing “Properties”. Click on the “customize desktop” button on the desktop tab and uncheck the “Desktop Clean-up Wizard”.

### Favourite Web Sites –

**Craigslist** – This, in my opinion, is the best web site for buying, selling, getting and giving bar none. It is free and there are no pop-ups, in fact, no advertising at all. I use Craigslist to sell and give away all sorts of things. I got a free dishwasher two months ago on Craigslist and the fellow delivered it – free! (I gave him a case of his favourite beer though). I advertise my business, I find out what is happening locally, you name it, you can do it on Craigslist. The one issue I have with it when posting an ad if someone doesn't like it for any reason they can remove it. This doesn't happen often but when it does it can drive you mad. And there is virtually nothing you can do about it. That said, 99% of the time it works as advertised and it is in more cities in more countries than I can count. Go to <http://www.craigslist.org> to find your city.

### “How-To's" (Software) – *Programs you can use to make your life easier*



**De-Crapifier** (<http://www.pcdcrapifier.com/>) is the program that should come on all new brand name computers and not the ones De-Crapifier is designed to get rid of. I don't care who makes it, HP, Lenovo, Acer, Gateway, ASUS or Dell they all include programs you do not want nor did you ask for and they slow your system down right out of the box. These programs are invariably time restricted software,

mostly 90 day trials that bug you to buy them at every opportunity. I hate them. This is where De-Crapifier comes in, it searches your computer for these programs and allows you to decide whether to keep them or not. Once you've made your selections launch the program and sit back. In a short time the programs are gone and after a re-boot you've got the system you thought you were buying running quicker than before.

## Freeware Software Review –



**Close All** - Every once in awhile I come across a program so simple and ingenious that I shake my head and ask "Why didn't Microsoft think of that and include it in Windows?" Close All is one of those programs. It is tiny, 36kb in its zipped format, it is fast and it does just what its name implies, it closes all open programs right now. You can even configure it to leave a couple of programs open. You can put it on your desktop, start menu or taskbar, wherever is convenient and it just works. I use it all the time now. Get more information about this program here:

<http://tinyurl.com/2e6mqw>

## What's New in Hardware – Nettops

What in the world is a Nettop you ask? To be succinct, they are the desktop version of a netbook, that is, a very small desktop computer. They can be used in a multitude of situations. I have one installed as an internet kiosk, it is an AspireRevo by Acer<sup>2</sup> installed in a local motel and it works great running Windows 7. They are powerful enough to act as a media centre computer, some with HDMI that will output right to that 50" 3D TV of yours.



Figure 1 Acer AspireRevo

This thing is 8"x8"x2" in size, it has 6 USB ports, integrated graphics, good sound quality, 250GB hard drive and mounts on the back of a 19" LCD monitor! These nettops are largely powered by 1.6GHz Intel Atom 230 processor which consumes very little power and very little heat so it uses a small fan which makes it as quiet as a church mouse. Oh, did I mention they're

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<sup>2</sup> Acer produces a wide range of netbooks from 8.9" to 11.6", single core to dual core, 1GB of ram to 4GB. If Acer isn't the biggest producer of netbooks then they're second.

inexpensive just like their netbook cousins? The AspireRevo was under \$400.00 which I consider to be a bargain. Of course Acer isn't the only producer of nettops, Lenovo and Dell too have a good selection.

What's your opinion on these new mini computers?

### Service Special for Subscribers Only

Only for the month of April I am offering my *Package Number Two*<sup>3</sup> to all my subscribers for just \$35.00 – a \$10.00 savings off the regular \$45.00 price. Email me today on how to take advantage of this great offer, email [mike@mvanert.com](mailto:mike@mvanert.com).

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<sup>3</sup> **Package number two** is much more extensive. Not only will I do what is included in package number one, I will install freeware programs that I have found to be essential in getting rid of viruses, spyware, and Malware. Once I've installed these programs I will then proceed to run a 'quick' scan of your computer to rid it of the most obvious infected files. I leave all programs on your computer so you can run the more exhaustive scan of your computer later. Not only will I do all the Windows updates I'll look for updates for Microsoft Office and other commonly used programs. Package number two generally takes 2 to 3 hours and costs \$45. I will make a full report on what I found out about your computer along with recommendations for improving the performance of your computer and software.