

Topic

Windows Vista is the latest operating system from Microsoft, released in January 2007. Microsoft states their primary objective with Vista as increasing security within the operating system. Windows Vista also offers an updated graphical user interface called “Aero” and many other enhancements.

This document discusses the advantages and disadvantages of running Volocity on Windows Vista.

Discussion

Volocity 4.1 and above include changes required to run on both the 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Windows Vista. Volocity 5 sees further investment in Vista compatibility, however we still recommend that users do not run Volocity on Vista. Although Windows Vista has many attractive new features, there are several serious disadvantages to using Vista instead of Windows XP:

- Performance on Vista will be poorer than on Windows XP because of immature drivers and the extra overhead of the new “Aero” user interface. Performance of 3D rendering may be particularly poor.
- Vista requires more RAM than Windows XP and a more powerful graphics card.
- For acquisition systems, very few manufacturers have made updated drivers available. Existing Windows XP drivers may not function on Vista, particularly on the 64-bit version of Vista.

At present we feel that there is little tangible benefit to be gained from running Volocity on Windows Vista. Improvision recommends that users continue to use Windows XP Pro or Windows XP Pro x64 Edition for both new and existing systems until Vista matures and updated drivers are more widely available.

If users do wish to run Volocity under Vista, they should check the following:

- Make sure that your computer is capable of running Vista properly – Microsoft provides information here:
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/default.mspx>
- Make sure that drivers are available for all the components in your computer, paying particular attention to:
 - Graphics cards
 - Network cards
 - Sound cards
 - RAID storage
 - Printers

- For acquisition systems, make sure that drivers are available for all your microscope hardware. Pay particular attention to drivers for digital cameras and devices attached via USB.