

Migrating to Microsoft's® New Windows® 7 Operating System?

Acronis'® seven-step approach can make it a lot safer

Windows Vista users contemplating an upgrade to Windows 7 will be able to follow a relatively simple path because most applications are left untouched by the procedure. But Windows XP users face a riskier and more complicated process.

Moving from Windows XP to Windows 7 requires a 'clean install', which means all applications, data, and settings must be rebuilt from scratch after the new operating system is up and running.

Whether you're running Vista or XP, you'll lower the risk and reduce the time required to complete the changeover if you *first back up your current system, settings, and data with disk imaging software.*

Disk imaging can help your migration run smoothly and eliminate the fear of losing data or a system. If you encounter a problem, you can revert back to the previous operating system and keep working until you solve it.

7 Steps to Windows® 7

Upgrade Checklist:

1. Back up your entire existing operating system with a disk image before upgrading to Windows 7. An image-based backup can be a great timesaver in the event that your Windows 7 installation fails, or if an existing application doesn't work on the new operating system. In either case you can simply roll back to your previous system.
2. Be prepared for the possibility that some applications may not yet be compatible with Windows 7. Check compatibility before installing or use Acronis® to create a separate disk partition for the new operating system. Use the older system to run any applications that can't be migrated to the Windows 7!
3. Migrate your data quickly. Capture all your files, applications and system settings as an image, and avoid the need to individually transfer them for use on the new operating system.
4. It can take four hours or more to reinstall a Windows 7-based system, so after you've completed the install, create a clean backup image of the entire new system. You'll avoid the need for another long re-install if you encounter a problem later.
5. Develop good backup habits. Set up an automatic backup schedule for full protection.
6. Store your backup to more than one destination for greater security. Ensure total protection of your data by backing up online to ensure your system is safe.
7. Test it! Make sure you can recover. Backup is easy; recovery is hard if you're not prepared.

