

Microsoft extends availability of Windows XP on new PCs by six more months for OEMs and some developing markets.

Computer makers can “downgrade” machines from Vista Business or Ultimate to Windows XP Pro through July 2009. But Jan. 31 is still the last day system builders will be allowed to purchase XP licenses. So the system builder deadline has not changed. How fair is that?

Users can purchase PCs with XP through next July, just months before Microsoft plans to roll out Windows 7. If the market likes that as much as Vista, system builders will suffer.

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