

Windows XP Starter Edition: attention, Mr. Bill Gates

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I'm reading Slashdot, as I often do, and I come across a story saying that the Windows XP Starter Edition won't run on P4 or Athlon computers. It has been deliberately crippled not to run on high-end machines. This merely confirms what has been obvious about Starter Edition since its inception.

Bill Gates, are you reading this? This post is for you, Mr. Gates. Pay attention, now.

Microsoft missed an enormous business opportunity with Windows Starter Edition. The basic idea was golden. Sell a lean, stripped down version of Windows at a lower cost. Brilliant! Everyone who complains about Windows bloat would have flocked to the stores to buy it. Everyone who needs a second copy of Windows on their second computer would buy it. Parents would buy it for their kids. People would buy it to run on older systems that have less resources.

Then what does your company do? It shoots itself in the foot. In fact, it shoots off all its toes one by one.

Microsoft deliberately *cripples* Starter Edition, insuring that no one in the world will want to use a copy at any price, or even for free. What would have been an enormous new source of revenue becomes an embarrassment, a sad joke. Do you think the poor folk in India are using Starter Edition? No, they are using pirated editions of XP Pro, just as they always have. You gave them *zero* incentive to change.

My final remarks concerning Windows Starter Edition, Mr. Gates:
dumb, dumb, dumb, dumb, dumb, dumb, dumb, dumb.

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