

RE: Windows Vista DRM – existing screens need not apply

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.mediacenter/2005-10/msg00344.html>

- *From:* "Seth" <Seth@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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One question that pops to mind is if the Xbox 360 supports all this in anticipation that it will really be living with streams from the Vista version of MCE for most of it's life cycle?

"John Lockwood" wrote:

- > Microsoft have started providing information about the changes Windows Vista
- > will include with respect to DRM. This obviously has major relevance to MCE
- > users.
- >
- > On the principal; any news is good news, now having an idea of what to
- > expect is welcome.
- >
- > For those unaware, here is a summary of what Microsoft have said will happen
- > (readers might also want to view
- > <http://www.drmwatch.com/special/article.php/3529586>).
- >
- > Windows Vista will include a new mechanism called PVP-OPM (Protected Video
- > Path – Output Protection Management).
- >
- > The PVP bit will prevent unencrypted video being sent over the PCI bus. The
- > entire massive set of protection measures will also mean that HD recording
- > might (if flagged protected by the broadcaster) not play on your BRAND NEW
- > high-resolution DVI connected LCD panel (the screen might go completely
- > blank or only display a much lower resolution version). This is because one
- > of the requirements is that the display (the LCD screen) must support HDCP.
- >
- > Ignoring the fact that the Music AND Movie industries are targeting these
- > protection measures against the wrong people (i.e. ordinary home users)
- > instead of COMMERCIAL pirates (who undoubtedly will have the resources,
- > expertise, and desire to pirate recordings despite any protection measures).
- > We face two problems, first I am not aware of any current computer LCD
- > screens (even those with DVI connections) which support HDCP. Secondly, I
- > believe it will be necessary for the Video card to also support HDCP, again
- > I am not aware of any video cards that currently support HDCP.
- >
- > In terms of LCD screens, some people might be lucky if they currently use a

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- > suitable TV (with HDCP support already built-in) as their 'computer' screen.
- >
- > Ironically, some computer companies (e.g. HP and Dell) are now flogging or
- > intending to sell computer LCD screens for use as TVs (although still I
- > believe without HDCP support).
- >
- > On the video card front I am surprised and disappointed ATI and Nvidia
- > _STILL_ don't provide HDMI connections on their cards. HDMI is fully
- > backwards compatible with DVI (so those using DVI are still covered).
- > Furthermore they could exploit this to pass audio across the PCI bus (from a
- > soundcard) and merge it with the video and output both together through the
- > HDMI connection.
- >
- > I do get the impression that ATI and Nvidia are working with Microsoft
- > regarding PVP-OPM (and presumably HDCP) but it is not clear if current video
- > cards will be upgradeable (through software) or whether complete new ones
- > need to be purchased.
- >
- > Fortunately for me I had already decided to wait for Windows Vista MCE to
- > ship before purchasing a PC and screen. However this was more luck than
- > anything since my original reason for delaying purchase is that MCE 2005
- > still does not [yet] support DVB-S.
- >
- > Does anyone know more about what is happening on LCDs and video cards
- > regarding HDCP etc.?
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