

Re: 2007 or 2k

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Word/microsoft.public.word.newusers/2007-03/msg00493.html>

- *From:* "Jay Freedman" <jay.freedman@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 26 Mar 2007 09:55:28 -0400
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Lamb Chop wrote:

I am going to buy a laptop next month. I would like to get vista business 64bit. I am thinking whether I should use my old office2k or buy the latest office07.

I use word mainly for editing my thesis which has a lot of equations and figures. The documents are usually fair large with a lot of graphics and thousands equations.

excel for basic calculation and sometime drawing some graphs but I mainly use sigma plot, a scientific grapher.

Access for keeping up the basic data base.

Powerpoint, only occasionally. Once in every half year.

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Any comments on comparing office2k and 07 would be appreciate. Will office07 run better in a 64bit environment?

Thanks

Bearing in mind that this is only my opinion, and that I haven't tried running anything on a 64-bit system yet...

I think you're a prime candidate to stay with the older version of Office for a while. When you're in the middle of writing a thesis, the last thing you need is to spend a couple of months figuring out where everything went in the new user interface. This isn't a matter of speed or great new features, it's a matter of reprogramming your brain and your fingers. After your thesis is complete, you can get Office 2007 and spend all the time you like on it.

Word 2007 has a new equation editor (although the old one is still there and

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still works the same as before). It has the big advantage that the new variety of equation is in some sense "ordinary text" that's just displayed differently, while the old variety is an "object" that has to be interpreted by an external DLL. When you put in hundreds, let alone thousands, of the old-style equations in a single document, Word could become sluggish or unstable. That shouldn't happen with the new variety. If you already have a lot of equations, though, Word doesn't have any way to convert them to the new variety — they would remain as objects unless you manually retype them.

Another consideration: Office 2007 is only a couple of months past general release, a period some people call "gamma test". :-) There will be a period for at least a few more months while people install it in configurations that were never seen in the beta test or in Microsoft's very extensive internal testing, and find more latent bugs. Unless you're adventurous, let others find them and wait for the first Service Pack.

Both the old Office and Office 2007 are 32-bit programs. All else being equal, running them in a 64-bit OS on a 64-bit processor won't speed them up. Indeed, it could make them slower, because every instruction has to be converted from 32 bits to 64 bits and every result has to be converted back to 32 bits (a process called "thunking"). On a new PC, particularly if it's a high-speed dual-core processor, you probably wouldn't notice that penalty. But there's no big advantage in 64-bit operation for Office, only for programs that are compiled for 64 bit use.

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Regards,

Jay Freedman

Microsoft Word MVP FAQ: <http://word.mvps.org>

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