

NTRLS IT: Real Stories  
**Upgrading to Windows 7 from older versions of Windows**

**Issue / Problem:**

Running Windows XP or Windows Vista and Upgrading to Windows 7

**Background Information you should know about:**

What is Windows 7? Windows 7 is the next operating system from Microsoft available to replace earlier versions of Windows. This information is about actual upgrades, not a complete wipe of your hard disk drive and reinstall of Windows 7.

**Resolution / How we solved the problem:**

Some things to consider before upgrading is that Windows XP and Vista come in different versions. So before upgrading, it is important to know which version you have. XP comes in Home and Professional (32-bit and 64-bit versions). Windows Vista also comes in these different versions: Basic, Home Premium, Business, and Ultimate (32-bit and 64-bit).

1. Before upgrading to Windows 7, make sure your computer's hardware is able to meet the minimum requirements. However I would recommend that you try to reach recommended requirements as meeting the minimum means Windows will run, just not very well.
2. For 32-bit Windows, make sure you have at least 2 Gig of RAM and for 64-bit I would recommend at least 4 Gig or more.
3. Make sure you run the Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor to guide you through your upgrade regardless of which operating system you're coming from. It can be found here: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/get/upgrade-advisor.aspx> This will help alert you to any unforeseen issues before you upgrade to 7.
4. When upgrading from any version of XP to 7, you will need to back up all of you important files, email, etc., because the system will not actually upgrade to Windows 7. It will install a new version next to the old Windows XP you used to have so you will need to start over with any of your profiles and user files.
5. When upgrading from Vista, you need to upgrade laterally. What I mean by this is if you have Vista Home Premium, then you will need to upgrade to Windows 7 Home Premium. They will also need to be the same bit versions. For example, you cannot upgrade a 32-bit to a 64-bit. You would have to do a complete reinstall of your operating system to do a 32-bit to 64-bit.
6. After your upgrade has finished, make sure all of your drivers for all of your devices such as Video Card and Sound Card are working properly. Check out device manager to make sure no

issues need to be resolved. If so then you can try going to the vendor website if you know who supports your computer devices and you can also try Windows Update since you will need to update Windows anyway. A lot of issues can be resolved by simply updating Windows.

7. Make sure all of your programs you had installed are working properly, if not then you should check with the software vendor to see if you need to update, upgrade or patch any software that isn't working properly. Hopefully you won't run into this issue since you checked with the upgrade advisor first.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at [abeatty@ntrls.org](mailto:abeatty@ntrls.org).