

Mark your calendar!

2009 Chapter Meeting Dates

October 10 **Money Makeover Marathon**

October 21 **Symposium**

November 18

December – no meeting

Chapter Meeting Location

Lipscomb University

Ezell Center, 3rd Floor, Room 301

3:15 Refreshments, networking

3:30 - 5:00 Meeting

Board Meetings 2:00 p.m.

September 16 November 18

December – planning meeting

Money Makeover Marathon

October 10, 2009; 9:00 – 11:30

Belmont University – Inman Center

We need YOU!

The FPA of Middle TN is hosting its third annual educational event for the public. Members will be offering 20 minute mini makeovers and Social Security expert Derrell Payne is presenting two sessions.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Serve as hosts
- Conduct mini makeovers
- Help market the event

This is an exceptional opportunity for us to show the community what a wonderful profession we represent. We need your help to make this event all that it can be. Look for sign up details in your mail box soon.

Paul Stovall, CFP®
FPA-Mid TN Chapter President

**Chapter Meeting
September 16**

Reviewing the Buy-Sell Agreement
presented by

Linas Sudzius, J.D., CLU, ChFC

Linas Sudzius began a career in the life insurance business for a Chicago-based insurance company. As their Director of Advanced Sales, he met with affluent business owners and helped them solve their estate planning and business continuation problems. In his subsequent role as Chief Marketing Officer, Linas managed and grew the company's internal life brokerage operation.

For the past eight years, Linas has been President of Advanced Underwriting Consultants (AUC). AUC provides customized advanced sales support to life insurance professionals. He also co-authors *Think About It* with Steve Leimberg.

In addition to his work at AUC, Linas is the founder of and managing attorney with the ICS Law Group. The ICS Law Group provides estate planning legal services to individuals, and non-litigation legal services to business owners.

Please join us on September 16th for what is sure to be an enlightening program.

Approved for one hour of CFP CE!

3:15 networking and refreshments

3:30 – 5:00 meeting

Lipscomb University, Ezell Center, Room 301

Invite a colleague to the meeting!

2009 Educational Symposium

October 21
Cool Springs Marriott

Featuring



William T. Spitz
Director & Principal
Diversified Trust

As a Co-Founder of Diversified Trust, Bill has served on the board since its inception and has been instrumental in the ongoing development of the company's investment platform.

From 1985 to 2007, Bill served as Treasurer and Vice Chancellor for Investments of Vanderbilt University where he presided over a ten-fold increase in endowment assets, during which time its investment performance placed in the top quartile of large endowments.

New venue!

Franklin Cool Springs Marriott
700 Cool Springs Boulevard

Register today and save!

[Register for Symposium](#)

Brentwood Study Group

New location:

Royal Thai, 210 Franklin Road

New time: 11:45 – 12:45

Please join us!

September 9th (2nd Wednesday)

For additional information:

Doug O'Rear, 615-371-8596

Will Welborn, 615-370-0750

We are FPA.™

The Green Hills Study Group Announces New Format

Each study group session will begin with a 30 minute presentation on a given/specific topic. The remaining 30 minutes will be an open forum for discussion on any subject from practice management to the current state of the markets.

September 10th topic:

The New Normal: Asset Allocation and Correlation led by Janice Overton.

October 8th topic:

Property and Casualty Insurance: the ugly red-headed stepchild of financial planning led by Randy Lee

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.; bring your lunch.

2000 Glen Echo Road, Suite 209

(next to the Green Hills Post Office)

There is currently space for 2-3 new members.

Act quickly!

Contact Carl Apple, 615-256-3807 or

Carl@appleandco.com

Invite a colleague to join FPA!

*Share the wealth of Knowledge,
Resources and Community.*

*When you introduce a colleague to FPA,
you help a fellow professional and
make our community stronger.*

To join go to:

<http://www.FPAnet.org/Membership/Individual/>

Thank You . . .

to all of you who so generously responded to the request to assist with the pro bono program.

Gifts to date total \$680!

Your generosity will allow us to continue giving educational books to the participants in our pro bono project at the Correctional Development Center. Our sincere thanks!

You're invited . . .

WHAT:

An annual event of the Edna S. Thomas Fund of
**The Community Foundation of Middle
Tennessee.**

Morning and Evening Parenting Lecture Series
featuring

Gloria DeGaetano

*"Parenting Well in a Media Age:
Keeping Our Kids Human"*

WHEN:

Tuesday, October 6

9:30 am-11:30 am

Westminster Presbyterian Church

3900 West End Avenue

Tuesday, October 6

7:00 pm

University School of Nashville

2000 Edgehill Avenue

COST:

Both events are free and open to the public.
Donations to the lecture series are gratefully
accepted.

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

Call 615.321.4939 for more information.

To FPA Members,

I have started a new blog on [Tennessee Estate Planning Law](#). The blog will provide insight and commentary on estate planning and tax issues impacting affluent Tennessee residents. Today's post relates to a new Tennessee tax imposed on certain family-owned LLCs and Limited Partnerships. If you would like to receive blogs via email, please click on the [link](#) and enter your email address in the subscribe box.

Sincerely,

Bryan Howard

Howard & Mobley, PLLC

Email: bryan@howardmobley.com

www.howardmobley.com

See my blog on [Tennessee Estate Planning Law](#)

CE Opportunity . . .

Who: The Nashville Society of FSP

When: October 1, 2009.

Speaker: James C. Davis, JD

*Mortality Adjusted Rates of Return for Life
Insurance and Annuity Contracts*

Location: Richland Country Club

Time: 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

RSVP: Pat Boyles at boylesfsp@earthlink.net.

The Foundation for Financial Planning is Helping Americans Achieve Financial Independence

We remain deeply grateful for your support of the Foundation for Financial Planning. In these challenging economic times, your support is needed-and appreciated-more than ever. We can assure you that it will continue to be conservatively spent and put to excellent use. We have always operated with a small staff and an extremely lean budget, now taxed further by our uncertain economy. This means that contributions from you and other supporters are absolutely essential to sustain and grow our grant operations.

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Make a pledge of \$1,200 or more today! Delay initial funding until 2010, and spread the payments over the next five years. Your commitment will help meet future requests. You can pledge online at www.foundation-finplan.org.

Sincerely,

Jim Peniston

Foundation for Financial Planning

Social Security Update

Click here to read the latest edition of the
Social Security Update

http://www.socialsecurity.gov/newsletter/an_Lunasdal.html .

FPA Launches Enhanced PlannerSearch ®

FPA's popular online tool connecting the public with FPA members was recently upgraded. FPA members will find expanded search functionality and improved accessibility on the new PlannerSearch.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a current [member of FPA](#)
- Must be a [CFP® certificant](#)
- Must be an RIA or bank affiliate
- Must adhere to [FPA's Code of Ethics](#)

By signing up for an [Enhanced Listing](#) (\$99), which provides you with lots of extras, or a [Basic Listing](#) (free), you gain visibility with thousands of potential clients a month.

Sign up today!

FPA-PAC

Representing financial planners and issues affecting planner practices are primary objectives of the Financial Planning Association. To enhance our efforts, the FPA-PAC was created as the federally registered political action committee of FPA, the only registered PAC on Capitol Hill representing the interests of the financial planning profession.

By contributing to the FPA-PAC fund, you're helping support candidates for the United States Senate and House of Representatives — primarily incumbents, regardless of political party — who have demonstrated previous support of issues FPA believes critical to advancing the profession.

CONTRIBUTE



October 10-13, 2009
Anaheim, Calif.

The annual conference of the financial planning community.

Full Rates (August 29 - October 13)

<http://www.fpaannualconference.org>



<http://community.fpanet.org>

Are they New Windows or just a Brilliant Shine?

By Sam H. Fawaz

It's been about seven months since I first installed and tested a beta version of the upcoming release of Microsoft Windows 7. I remember playing with it at the 2009 Consumer Electronics Show before I was convinced that it was stable enough to give it a try. Now with a release candidate publicly available and an official release date of October 22 2009, Microsoft has accelerated the release by about three months from the original promise date. In this article, I'll give you the highlights of the new operating system, my thoughts on them, and the likely impact on users.

Installation & Initial Impressions

Available only via the internet, I scheduled the beta version of about 2.5 gigabytes to download overnight. As a paying Microsoft TechNet subscriber, I didn't have to compete with the thousands of people who tried and reported difficulties downloading the public beta version. I was glad that I didn't have to repeat the download process more than once.

My first install, since I was on the road, was to a "virtual" drive on my ThinkPad T43p laptop with 2 GB of RAM. A virtual drive allowed me to install the Windows 7 operating system within my Windows Vista installation and run it like it was its own application inside Windows Vista. It also allowed me to avoid partitioning the hard drive or setting up a new hard drive from scratch. Upon return to my office, I also installed the beta of Windows 7 on a five-year old Dell Dimension 8100 with 1 GB of RAM and a freshly formatted 200 GB hard drive.

With both installs, the installation wizard asked very few questions and proceeded to install Windows 7 without a hitch. This is a refreshing change from prior operating system installations where Windows stopped midstream and waited for answers to one or more questions before proceeding. This makes unattended installations by the

average user pretty impossible. The entire installation took about 25 minutes, even on my old hardware.

Since I had heard that Windows 7 was designed to work on less intensive hardware than Vista, I was curious how it would run on my four-year-old laptop and five-year-old desktop. And since I was running it in a virtual environment on the laptop, there were less than 100% of the hardware resources available to run in. While Windows 7 didn't set any land speed records relative to Vista, I was impressed with what I perceived to be a leaner, faster operating system. Admittedly, all new Windows installations start out faster and slowly degrade over time.

My first task upon installation was to find a compatible anti-virus application. While Windows 7 builds in an anti-spyware application, there were very few choices of anti-virus applications available that were compatible with Windows 7. I choose to download and install a free compatible 90-day beta version of Symantec Anti-virus 2009. Since then, Microsoft has announced that it is beta testing and will release its own anti-virus program at a low price or free.

A first glance at the finished installation reveals little that appears different about the user interface (UI). While there have been a few tweaks to the UI, most of the work on Windows 7 has occurred "under the hood". Reportedly, Microsoft has trimmed and streamlined thousands of lines of code to make it run faster and leaner while making it more secure. I did notice that start-up and shut-down of Windows 7 seemed a bit faster than Vista. However, similar to other Microsoft operating systems, it tended to slow down with use and the installation of other applications.

I was pleasantly surprised with the number of hardware drivers available for peripherals items such as printers, cameras and scanners. My older HP LaserJet and newer Brother printer Vista drivers worked without a hitch. Compatibility with a wide range of hardware devices was a goal for Windows 7 to avoid the bad press brought about with the incompatibilities and device driver delays with Vista.

User Account Control

One of Vista's biggest annoyances, the user account control (UAC) module, acts as a traffic cop to prevent malicious code or malware from ever installing itself on your computer without your permission. Whenever a certain program or an installation is executed, UAC prompts the user to allow the execution to proceed. But as I've reported before, the UAC module is more intrusive than it should be and "pops up" way too often

to be effective (including many core Windows functions.) Why? Because users have to choose between having it either on or off, and they quickly become annoyed with dismissing all the prompts. Further, they may not understand why or what is causing the UAC prompt, so they get stuck affirming or denying a program or function without knowing why. Thus, they turn it off, leaving them exposed to potential malware.

In Windows 7, the UAC is no longer an all or nothing proposition. You can choose from a range of four levels of settings between on and off, making it a much more usable function.

User Interface Enhancements

The Windows 7 taskbar has been redesigned with taller and movable buttons. It is also now more "mac-like" and can show you more meaningful and multiple "live" rather than static thumbnails of what is going on with each active application. You have the choice to combine multiple documents or windows in one application or keep them separate. The buttons glow when you hover the mouse over them and show a preview of open documents. The taskbar has also changed with an "icons only" feature. Gone are the long text descriptions of the applications in use in favor of freeing up extra space on the taskbar.

No doubt that the new "invisible windows" feature, which makes all your windows transparent so you can see the desktop or perhaps a gadget floating there, is a graphics and processor intensive operation. Similarly, a "window shake" feature minimizes all but one of the open windows on your desktop. Click and hold the title bar of any open window and shake your mouse back and forth a few times and all the other open windows minimize to the task bar.

A nice feature for those with large wide-screen monitors is Aero Snap. When you drag a window to the left or right edge of the screen, Windows 7 automatically resizes the window to fill up half the screen. This is especially handy because it allows you to do with two clicks what used to take many more clicks and manipulations to show two applications or documents side by side.

Though I didn't have a touch-screen system to test it, Windows 7 is optimized for touch-screens. With the success of the iPhone and other multi-touch devices, having these capabilities built-in will help phase in a new era of interaction with future personal computers.

Networking & Sharing

Better networking capabilities make file and resource sharing and finding other Windows 7 computers easier than ever. Similar to Vista, you are prompted to choose between home, work and public locations when a new

network is discovered. The distinction is critical for allowing or denying access to shared resources.

Obviously, when you're on a public network, you don't want unknown users perusing your hard drive for files to steal or destroy.

For home users, Windows 7 introduces the home-group concept. This also greatly simplifies sharing file libraries (e.g., photos, music, videos, and documents) and printers with other home computers and users without hiring your own technogeek. Though it has its share of quirks and annoyances, I found it to be a worthwhile addition for unsophisticated users frustrated with traditional file sharing. The library feature allows you to see all of your similar files in one place, even if they're scattered across one or more hard drives or folders.

Another noteworthy feature in Windows 7 relates to mobile hardware and networking. Whenever you plug in a cell phone or other mobile device, a screen specific to the device pops up with options to choose from, including syncing. Your device has to be supported by Microsoft, so it will depend on the manufacturer of the device to provide the appropriate data or drivers.

One-click Wi-Fi continues with Vista's basic simplification of choosing a wireless network. Click the system-tray icon and choose from the available hotspots. If only the troubleshooting capabilities and error reporting were better able to identify the reasons for connection difficulties.

My Experience

In day-to-day use, there was not much about Windows 7 that struck me as being radically different than Windows Vista. Although the lower hardware requirements (minimum 1 GHz processor, 1 GB of RAM, 16 GB of hard disk space) means that many older PC's can run Windows 7, I can't say with certainty that it felt like it ran much faster than Vista over time. And therein lies the biggest complaint about Vista: its sluggishness. While it certainly didn't feel slower than Vista, there are so many factors that influence how fast it runs (e.g., hardware, software installed, enabled operating system capabilities, graphics, etc.) Since the old Windows registry lives on with 7, backwards compatibility is assured, but so are the legacy issues, performance and problems inherent with it.

To avoid the application compatibility issues that plagued Vista, Windows 7 includes a Windows XP mode, which is essentially a virtual XP environment inside 7. Indeed, while I didn't specifically test any financial planning applications on Windows 7 per se, I

expect them to be fully compatible if they are certified for Vista or XP. With the applications I tested and installed, I experienced very few crashes with 7.

As for my overall impression, Windows 7 strikes me as the next iteration of Vista (or Vista with service pack 3) rather than a brand new operating system. With all of the negative press and experience with Vista, and Microsoft's ability to "rush" Windows 7 into manufacturing months ahead of the official target date, I can't help but conclude that this is largely a marketing makeover for Vista. Nonetheless, Microsoft deserves credit for addressing many of the issues that continue to plague Vista. In general, I am happy with the Windows 7 upgrade and will glad upgrade my primary computers once it is released.

Vista users with beefy systems and few complaints about the operating system will find few reasons to ante-up for the Windows 7 upgrade. XP users are more likely to find value in the upgrade, though Microsoft has not announced a migration (i.e., an in-place upgrade installation) path for XP users.

As of this writing, Microsoft has announced versions of Windows 7 similar to Vista (e.g., Home Premium, Business, Enterprise, and Ultimate) and has also talked about a sub-\$100 basic home version that imposes many restrictions. In addition, a family license bundle (up to three computers) is likely to be announced. Pricing has not yet been announced.

I expect a cautious corporate approach to upgrading to Windows 7, with many companies waiting until the first service pack is released before committing to deployment. By then, the economic recovery should be well underway to help fund the computer and operating system refresh cycle.

If you'd like to get your hands on a copy of the free release candidate of Windows 7 Ultimate that works through June 1, 2010, you can get one from the [Microsoft Windows 7 Download Page](#) for a limited time. Follow the download links and supply or get a Windows Live ID to get a product key. Keep in mind that the trial-ware becomes "nagware" on March 1, 2010 and starts shutting down every two hours to remind you to upgrade to a release copy of the software. Two weeks prior, Windows 7 will warn you of the impending bi-hourly shutdown.

Sam H. Fawaz, CFP®, CPA works with YDream Financial Services & Solutions in Canton Michigan and Franklin Tennessee and has been helping clients and financial planners with financial planning & technology solutions for over 20 years. He has been writing about tax, financial planning and technology solutions for over twelve years. He can be reached via e-mail at hf@ydfs.com or at (734) 447-5305 with any questions.

You can follow Sam on his Twitter microblog at <http://twitter.com/themoneygeek> or at his blog at <http://themoneygeek.com>. His company website is at <http://www.ydfs.com>

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The mission of the FPA of Middle TN is to advance the profession of financial planning in Middle Tennessee and to provide quality, professional education to our members and to the public.

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