



Your Website Coach



The Vista is Not So Clear Yet – 10/2/07

Vista - Etymology: Italian, "sight", from *visto*, past participle of *vedere* "to see". Now make that Windows Vista – IE7 and you might not "see" what you think you should be seeing. In particular, I am referring to the fact that some websites can't be browsed by Internet Explorer v.7 (IE7) on the Vista platform. This fact came to my attention when I was training one of my clients, Karen, how to make minor text updates on her new website. Karen has a new system with Vista/IE7 on it and when I tried to show her how to transfer files using the web-based interface, it just would not work. It worked on my other systems that use IE7 without the Vista, so I began surfing the web for answers and was surprised to find many complaints circulating in cyberspace regarding **this** combo. The general (and primary) problem is that some sites just can not be browsed in Vista/IE7. Among the reasons for the squirrely behavior is that Vista/IE7 is having issues with java applets. And it is having issues with ActiveX components. And pop-up blockers might be getting in the way. And none of this really makes sense to me because prior to the new operating system, these components worked just fine in the majority of platform/browser permutations. I've been keeping an eye open for a solution to the problem and none have appeared yet. Even so, I felt it is important to bring this anomaly to your attention because you may have customers who are unable to view your site even though it is fully operational. If people are telling you they can't see your site, consider the Vista/IE7 issue before you make that call to your web host provider.

In addition to not being able to perform functions (maintenance and otherwise) on your website, different browsers can produce different results. Those of you who have built your own sites need to ensure that they can be viewed by multiple browsers. This matters, because the time you spent in getting things just right may be totally lost in a browser that isn't compatible. What are the popular ones? IE, Firefox, Safari (Mac), Mozilla, Netscape and Opera. Yes, there are more, our concern is with what the general public is using. You can download these browsers onto your computer and check to see how your website holds up in each case. To help you navigate the available browsers and their capabilities, I recommend checking out www.webmonkey.com/reference/browser_chart/. You can also search on "browser compatibility" for more charts. Good luck!

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