

Life With Windows Vista

Fact Sheet
January 2007

Microsoft Corp. brought families from all over the world to the heart of product development through a program called Life With Windows Vista™. It is the largest-scale consumer research program Microsoft Corp. has undertaken before a Windows® launch. The feedback Microsoft received from the families was a fundamental part of the creation of the Windows Vista operating system; it provided the team at Microsoft with insight into the countless ways that consumers use computers and allowed the team to take this valuable feedback into account during product development.

Fifty families from seven countries, including Japan, Israel and Germany, contributed to the Life With Windows Vista program. Following are snapshots of five families who participated in the Life With Windows Vista program.



Shimizu Family
Bellevue, Wash.

Brandon and Thuy Shimizu live just east of Seattle and love music. Although they were selected to explore and provide feedback on the music features in Windows Vista, they quickly found many other things to get excited about. An avid online shopper always looking for a good deal, Thuy finds that the Tabbed Browsing in Windows Internet Explorer® 7 in Windows Vista enhances her ability to comparison-shop. Brandon, practical and forward-thinking, is enthusiastic about the security features and parental controls in Windows Vista. He is glad that when the time comes, he and Thuy can be confident and excited about letting their little ones play on the computer and explore online. Although they do not have any children, Thuy had a blast trying out the parental control features on Brandon!

"The people at Microsoft were very excited to be working with us. They really seemed to be listening to what we were saying." – Brandon Shimizu

"Windows Vista makes things easier, it's more relaxing. The computer has become my friend, not just something that reminds me of work." – Thuy Shimizu



Regan Family
Germantown, Md.

With three small children, Melissa and Chris Regan appreciate it when things are easy. When her family started the Life With Windows Vista program, Melissa considered her experience installing Windows Vista to be confusing. She worried that the process would be overly complex for busy parents like her. Today she can see the impact of her feedback in the convenient and user-friendly out-of-the-box experience.

Melissa also requested a Burn to CD option from within the Windows Photo Gallery; she was passionate about the inclusion of this feature to prevent frustration for other consumers. The option was added to the Photo Gallery, and Melissa is proud to say that she had a part in that.

"Throughout the process we saw the changes and felt like Microsoft was really listening." – Chris Regan

"The people who came to our house from Microsoft were really interested in what I had to say. They felt like the information was important." – Melissa Regan



**Mason Family
Peoria, Ariz.**

Robin Mason says the moment she found out she was selected for the Life With Windows Vista program, she felt as though she'd won the lottery. She was truly honored to have the chance to affect the next version of Windows. An avid blog reader and digital scrapbooker, Robin is on the computer every day. She formerly used a variety of software programs for her digital scrapbooking but now finds everything she needs to keep her photos organized in Windows Vista. Robin also loves the new Windows Sidebar and Internet Explorer 7. Her daughter Cassidy is on the computer every day as well, using the Internet for research, homework and chatting with friends.

"With 5,000 digital pictures and more than 40,000 digital scrapbooking elements, I used to spend all my time searching. Windows Vista allows me to spend more time enjoying the fun and creative side of digital scrapbooking, rather than searching for the right images." – Robin Mason

"It's amazing that I could have an impact on a product like this." – Robin Mason



**Abbott Family
Charlotte, N.C.**

Cameron and Kim Abbott like to say that they have never met a stranger. They welcomed the Microsoft team and Windows Vista into their home with open arms. Cameron embraced the project as if it were his second job, taking the laptop on vacations and calling tech support all hours of the night. With a new baby, Kim was more skeptical about having to learn a new operating system and participating in the program. She soon found that the Tabbed Browsing in

Internet Explorer 7 made it much easier to complete daily tasks such as online banking, e-mailing and managing her growing online book-selling business. The Windows Photo Gallery also empowered Kim to get much more involved with digital photos rather than relying on Cameron to organize their 37,000 images. Windows Vista provides all the tools she needs to easily transfer digital photos from the camera to the computer, organize them so they are always easy to find and then print the one she wants to use for a scrapbooking project.

"The Life With Windows Vista program has been a great experience. I am so much more appreciative for what goes into these products." – Cameron Abbott

"I love that I can import and print my photos with Windows Photo Gallery — it's so easy!" – Kim Abbott



**Kröper Family
Munich, Germany**

Theo and Martina live in the south of Munich with their three boys: Konstantin, Alexander and Marius. They spend a lot of their spare time outside but also enjoy using the family PC. When Microsoft called them about the Life with Windows Vista program, they felt like they were celebrating Christmas in summer. The Kröpers were excited to share information about their previous experience with computers and their thoughts about computer usage. After trying out a lot of features such as Search Explorer, Windows Photo Gallery and Windows Media Player, they noticed immediately how easy and fast it is to accomplish tasks using Windows Vista. Theo also explored the Windows Live™ OneCare™ Family Safety center and the country specific rules, and found it very useful for families.

The Kröpers appreciated how open Microsoft was to ideas and feedback, especially starting at such an early stage of product development. They were proud to be an integral part of the program and to have the opportunity to influence an operating system that is used by other families around the world.

“I set up a network for the very first time in my life and it worked like a charm.” – Konstantin Kröper, 16

“It was hard for us to believe that it would be important to Microsoft to understand what we are doing with a PC. During the many visits, we saw how open they were to our ideas and the feedback we were providing.” – Theo Kröper

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