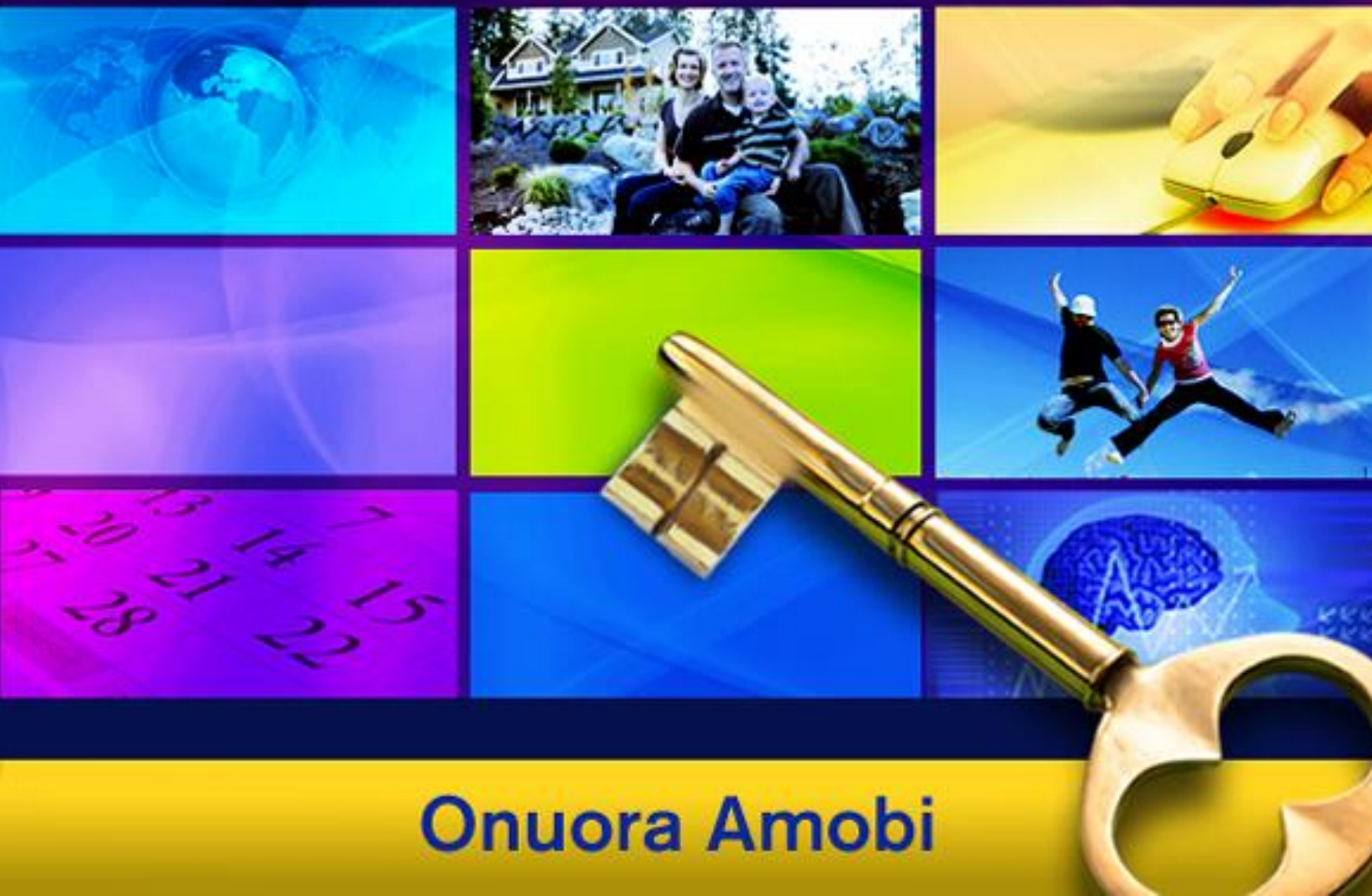


THE CASE FOR WINDOWS 8 VOLUME 1

*What we know about Microsoft's
next Operating System*



Onuora Amobi

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Introduction



There has been a lot of buzz generated by the early screenshots and demos of Windows 8 in the past couple of days and quite frankly it has been a lot to digest.

OK so what to make of it all?

To give you some background, I'm a former Microsoft MVP and have been writing about Windows 8 since November 5, 2009.

I've written approximately 405 blog posts about the operating system on my site Windows8update.com and it has been interesting to see how concepts have evolved in the 19 months since I started.

Let's take a look at what we know so far.

Windows 8 tile interface

From the past couple of days, here are the relevant points that have been revealed about Windows 8.

- Windows 8 will be able to run on a wide range of machines because it will have the same system requirements or lower than Windows 7
- Windows 8 re imagines every level of the Windows architecture — the kernel, networking, storage, devices, user interface
- The new OS is REALLY FAST and FLUID.
- The new OS is Created on Windows' new application development platform. Based on HTML5, JavaScript and CSS.

- There seem to be 2 interfaces – One for tablets and touch and the other for traditional desktop.
- The 2 interfaces (at this point) seem to be in the same OS.
- It has live tiles with notifications, showing always up-to-date information from your apps.
- You can switch between apps by just dragging them in from the side.
- Although the new user interface is designed and optimized for touch, it works equally well with a mouse and keyboard
- There are rumors of less versions of Windows 8 than the traditional versions of Windows 7 (Enterprise, Home etc)
- IE10 will be introduced with Windows 8
- Switching between the live-tile UI and the usual desktop is instantaneous.
- The tablet tiles have a very slick feel to them.
- You can also do a split-screen interface, where you see both the new and the old UI side by side.
- With Windows 8, apps are all optimized for touch.
- PageUp and PageDown buttons will allow you to move between tiles on non-touchscreen devices.
- It will have a new mode called “always on, always connected” – It’ll permit for instant wake-up from sleep and keep the ARM tablets constantly connected to the web.
- It will allow tablets to connect to USB sticks
- UEFI engagement will help with speeding up boot times – systems with SSDs in them could go from a cold boot to the Start screen in under 6 seconds.”
- It will require a minimum of 1366 x 768 resolution for the best Windows 8 experience. 1024 x 768 will be the absolute minimum for the new UI fanciness and 1024 x 600 will let you run Windows 8 in the classic desktop mode.

My thoughts are the following:

It makes sense now that Steve Ballmer said that this was the riskiest thing that Microsoft have ever done with Windows. Steve Ballmer was right (never thought I would say that) – they are throwing all the chips on the table.

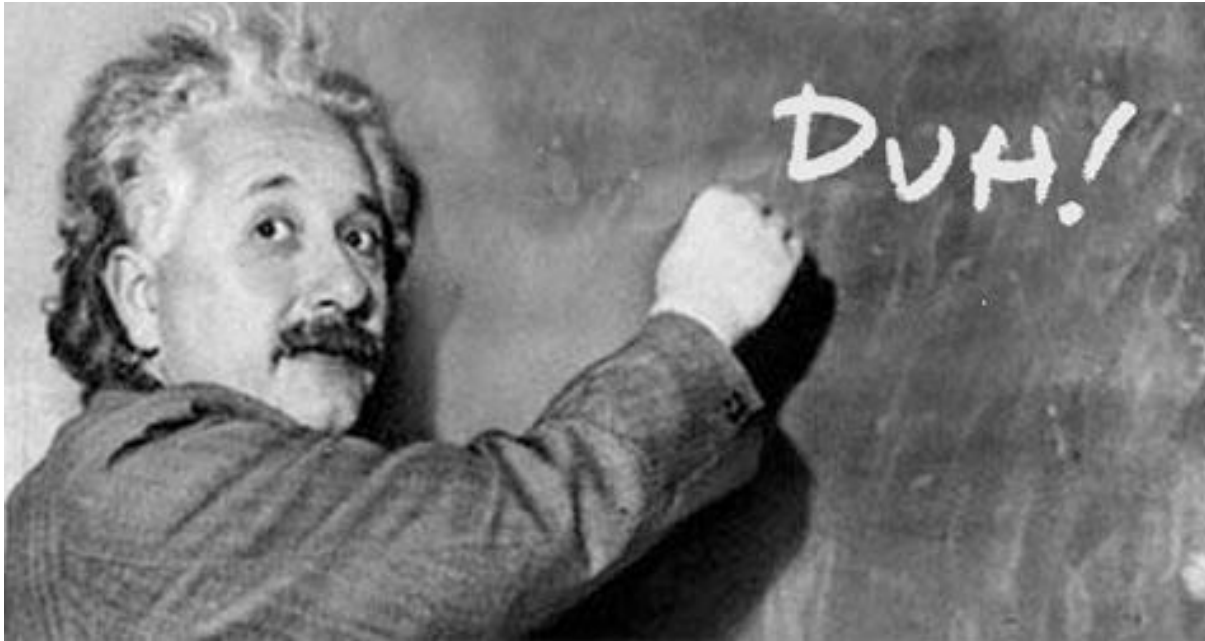
This is a reimagining of Windows the likes of which we have never seen. Now, the fact that they kept access to the “old” UI is a smart move and guarantees that if the tablet interface is not your cup of tea, you don’t ever need to use it.

There are a thousand different questions at this point but they will be answered by Microsoft later.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/06/02/my-analysis-of-windows-8-at-this-point/>

What will they call it?



Microsoft internally has acknowledged the name "Windows 8". Microsoft staff are now officially allowed to refer to 2012's impending Windows release as "Windows 8".

There is a caveat with this however.

This caveat is that no formal naming has yet taken place for the product and, as a result of this, it is subject to change and the name Windows 8 should in no way be construed as the final name for the operating system.

Windows 8 is simply a code name used to refer to the product internally.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/06/07/microsoft-internally-have-acknowledged-the-name-windows-8/>

Windows 8 versions?

```
“ ARM.Starter=00342
  ARM.StarterN=00345
  ARM.StarterE=00348
  ARM.HomeBasic=00346
  ARM.HomeBasicN=00358
  ARM.HomeBasicE=00349
  ARM.HomePremium=00359
  ARM.HomePremiumN=00362
  ARM.HomePremiumE=00351
  ARM.Professional=00371
  ARM.ProfessionalN=00376
  ARM.ProfessionalE=00352
  ARM.Enterprise=00392
  ARM.EnterpriseN=00403
  ARM.EnterpriseE=00355
  ARM.Ultimate=00426
  ARM.UltimateN=00432
  ARM.UltimateE=00356
```

It seems like Microsoft is compiling multiple editions of Windows 8. This makes sense.

It seems like all the Windows 7 versions are back again:

- **Starter**
- **Home Basic**
- **Home Premium**
- **Professional**
- **Enterprise**
- **Ultimate**

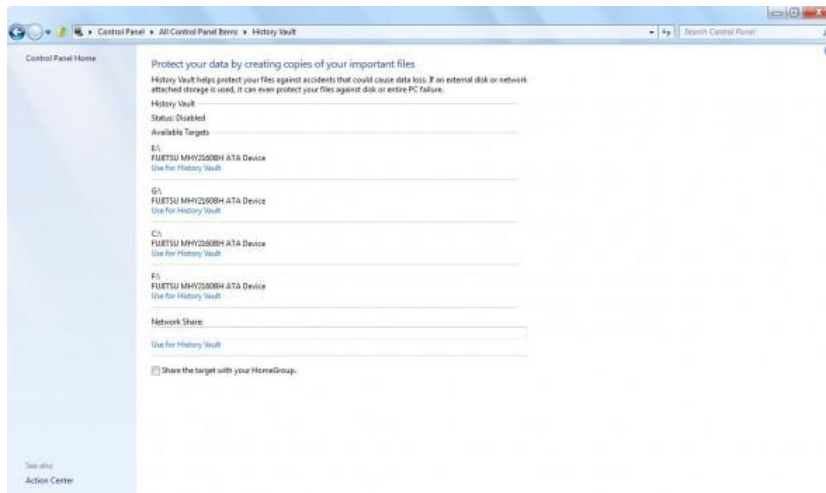
It seems like it may be too early to tell though. The code above came from a rough early copy of the pre-beta versions of Windows 8.

Of course, this is all speculation at this point.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/26/windows-8-n-and-windows-8-e-versions/>

Windows 8 History Vault



More is being revealed about the new feature in Windows 8 called History Vault.

The feature will allow Windows 8 users to backup files and data automatically using the Shadow Copies function of Windows.

Fresh screenshots are now emerging thanks to a recent leak of Windows 8 build 7955.

The new screenshots show a special interface specifically designed for users to look back at previous files. The backup feature will include the ability to restore to a specific time or date on the system. Users will also be able to select files and restore them to different timestamps.

Apple's Mac OS X does currently include a similar feature called Time Machine. This allows users to turn the clock back in time and retrieve data and files that have been previously edited or deleted.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/26/windows-8-history-vault-looks-really-good/>

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/25/history-vault-for-windows-8-in-more-detail/>

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/03/30/new-windows-8-system-restore-or-history-vault-screenshots-part-1/>

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/03/30/new-windows-8-system-restore-or-history-vault-screenshots-part-2/>

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/03/30/new-windows-8-system-restore-or-history-vault-screenshots-part-3/>

Windows 8 Facial Recognition



Microsoft are looking to add Facial Recognition and detection to Windows 8 (no surprise there)

Microsoft already offer very basic facial recognition on gaming systems through their Kinect and Xbox Live products.

I got an anonymous tip.

It basically said the following:

Microsoft are looking to add Facial Recognition and detection to Windows 8 (no surprise there).

They are looking to add it to the login screen as an option that can be enabled in the control panel. Discussions are still ongoing about whether to support:

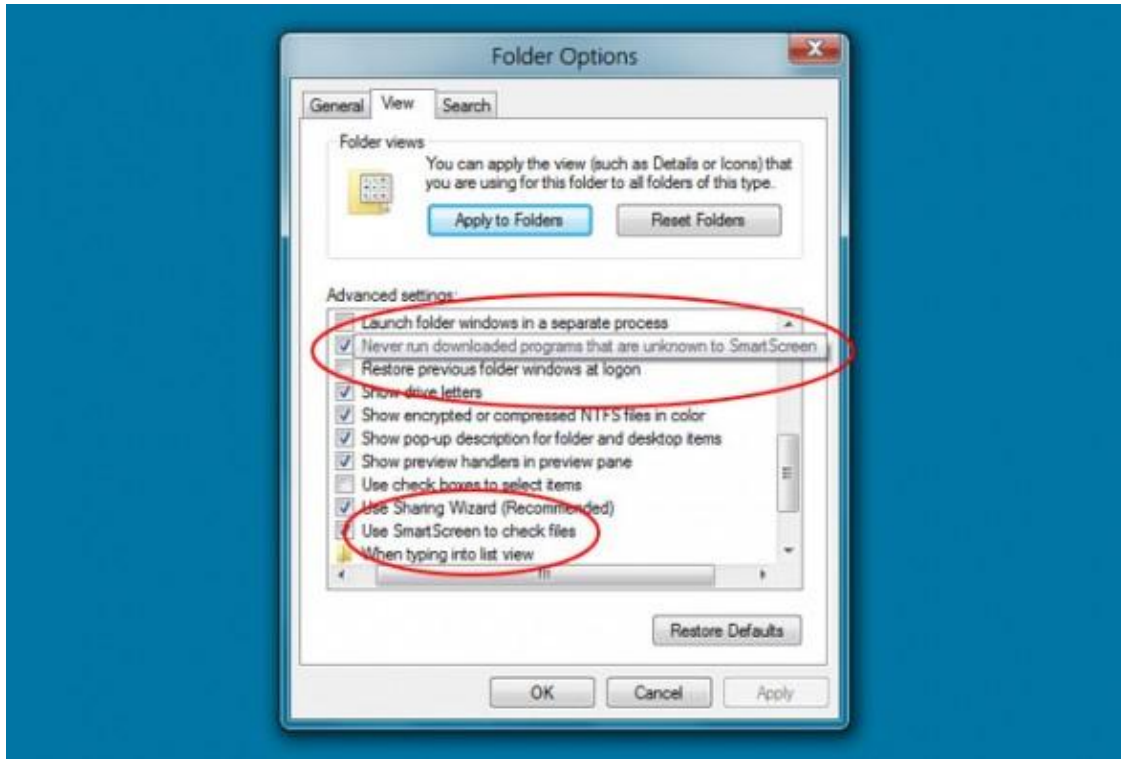
- Kinect
- Kinect 2Webcams (generic 3rd party inclusive)
- Microsoft specific webcams

This is just a rumor... one of very many

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/09/new-windows-8-rumor-facial-detection-and-recognition/>

Windows 8 Security



Apparently Windows 8 will use **SmartScreen** as a security feature. It will proactively check the file system and attempt to stop and downloads that are foreign to it.

SmartScreen is practically a dynamic list of known “illegal, viral, fraudulent, or malicious” URLs that Microsoft manually or algorithmically identifies. It uses this list to compare the link or executes a user visits or downloads, warning if there’s a match.

Another rumored feature **Network Access Protection (NAP)** is designed to help administrators maintain the health of the computers on the network, which in turns helps maintain the overall integrity of the network.

It is not designed to secure a network from malicious users. For example, if a computer has all the software and configurations that the network access policy requires, the computer is considered healthy or compliant, and it will be granted the appropriate access to the network.

NAP does not prevent an authorized user with a compliant computer from uploading a malicious program to the network or engaging in other inappropriate behavior.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/08/windows-8-to-use-smartscreen-security/>

Windows 8 Release Date



In a recent statement, Steve Ballmer confirmed Windows 8 name and release date.

"We're obviously hard at work on the next version of Windows. Windows 7 PCs will sell over 350 million units this year. We've done a lot in Windows 7 to improve customer satisfaction. We have a brand new user interface. We've added touch, and ink, and speech. And yet, as we look forward to the next generation of Windows systems, which will come out next year, there's a whole lot more coming. As we progress through the year, you ought to expect to hear a lot about Windows 8. Windows 8 slates, tablets, PCs, a variety of different form factors."

Microsoft VP Dan'l Lewin has further hinted at the upcoming Windows 8 release date. According to Lewin who is corporate vice president for Strategic and Emerging Business Development, the company is targeting an Autumn 2012 release for Windows 8. Speaking at the start-up LAUNCH event at the Microsoft Silicon Valley campus, Lewin hinted that Microsoft will be "in the market" 12 months after the initial beta period. "We've made the point about having a developer conference later this year," said Lewin. "Then typically we enter a beta phase, and then in 12 months we're in the market, so let's make that assumption."

Relevant Links:

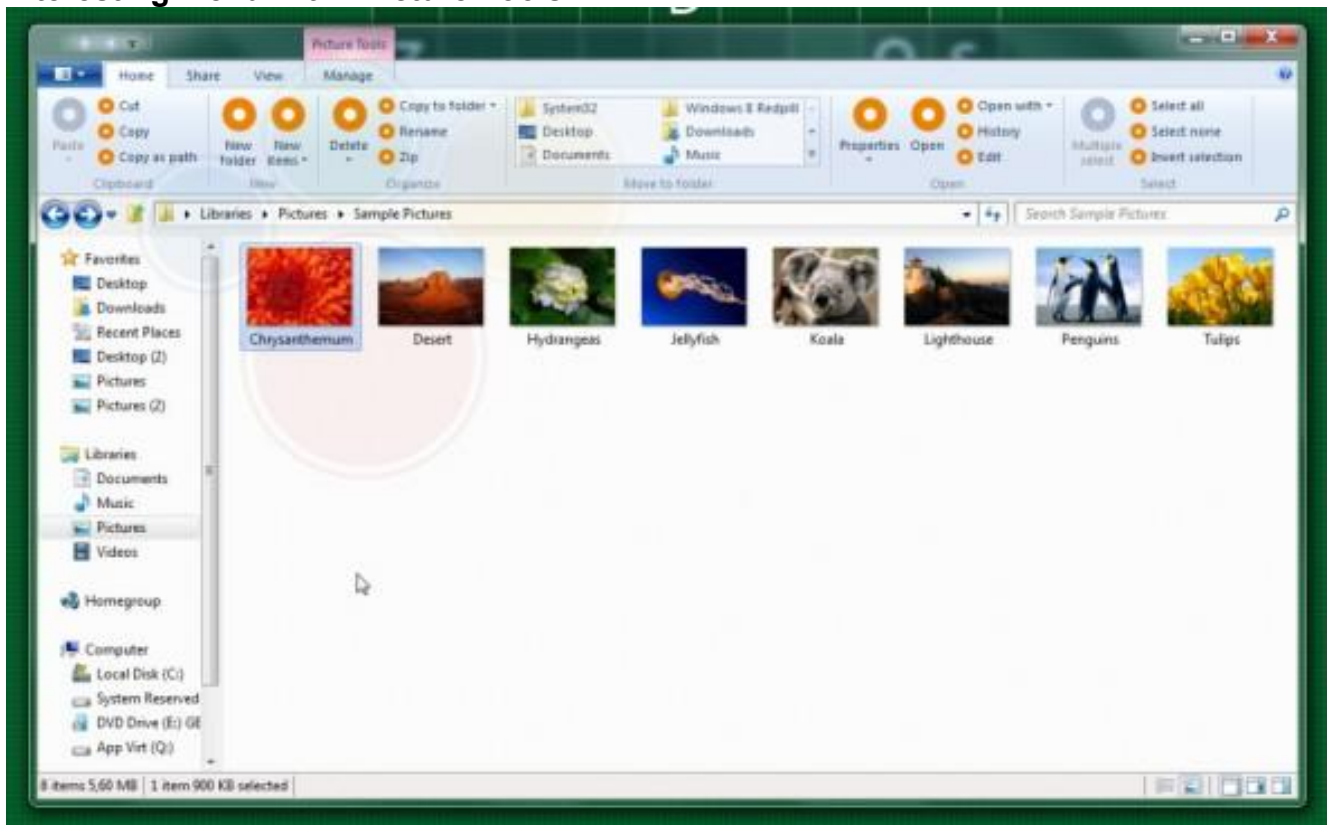
<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/05/23/steve-ballmer-confirms-windows-8-name-and-says-its-due-in-2012/>

Windows 8 ribbon interface

Microsoft is experimenting with a ribbon interface for parts of Windows 8, and we have a gallery of leaked screenshots showing examples of an early build.

Microsoft Word users are already familiar with the idea of a ribbon interface, where a tabbed and extra-tall toolbar resides at the top of the page, offering dynamic groups of icons in an attempt to make the user interface more efficient. Microsoft also added the ribbon interface to a couple of applets within Windows 7, including Paint and WordPad.

Interesting menu with “Picture Tools”



Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/22/updated-photos-of-the-windows-8-ribbon-interface/>

Windows 8 Video Chat



Microsoft might be preparing a new video service inside Windows 8. It's reportedly named "Chatter". References to "Chatter" have been discovered in early leaked builds of Windows 8.

The move isn't exactly surprising given Microsoft's recent purchase of Skype, and could give the company a nice answer to Apple's Facetime product.

Chatter even appears to have its own icon:

Windows 8 chatter logo



The Windows 8 lock screen in Microsoft's demo had a little icon that looked like a Web cam. It also had a little number "7" next to it, suggesting 7 missed video calls.

Relevant Links:

- <http://www.windows8update.com/2011/06/03/windows-8-chatter-video-service/>
- <http://www.windows8update.com/2011/05/10/will-skype-be-integrated-into-windows-8/>
- <http://www.windows8update.com/2011/05/10/microsoft-buys-skype/>

Windows 8 Genuine Center

A new screen has been leaked showing something called Windows 8 Genuine Center. It seems like a center that shows activation status and allows you to change your activation key.



Images have surfaced on winfuture.de of a new Genuine Center in early builds of Windows 8.

This appears, for the moment, to simply be a single place accessible from the Action Center where a user can check if their copy of Windows is genuine, enter or change their product key and activate it.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/14/windows-8-genuine-center/>

Windows 8 Kinect Integration



Kinect Rumor - Microsoft is working on the sequel to the home version of Kinect which will be called the Kinect 2.

The Kinect 2 will be between 40 to 60% smaller than the current Kinect and may have a totally different sleeker design.

The purpose of the redesign will be to get it onto corporate and home desktops/laptops without a large footprint – basically consumers will be able to look at it like a webcam.

Microsoft's Steve Ballmer was asked the following question by the BBC: "Will you plug-in the Kinect to the PC, will you go for that in the near future?" Ballmer responded clearly: "We'll support that in a formal way in the right time and when we've got an announcement to make we'll make it."

The existence of and rumored development of the Kinect 2 is a rumor

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/02/24/windows-8-development-more-kinect-and-windows-8-integration-news/>

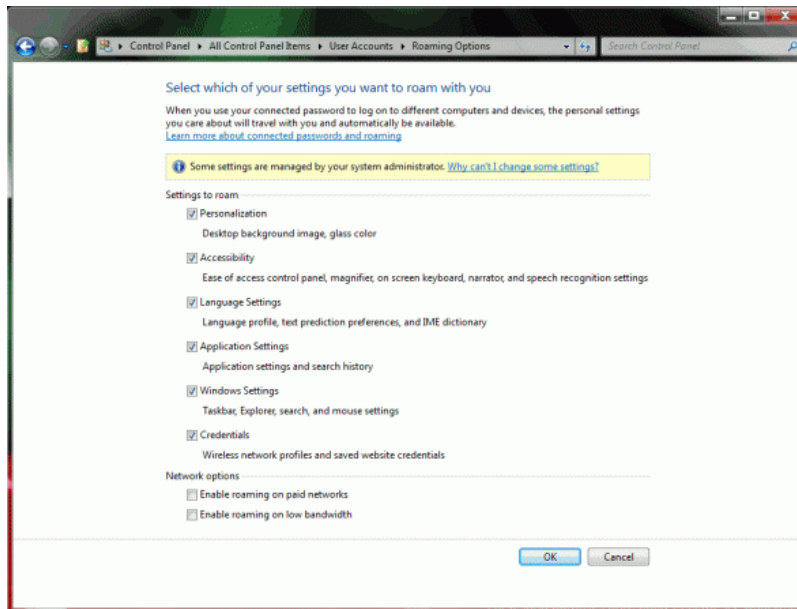
<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/02/24/windows-8-development-even-more-confirmation-of-cloud-integration/>

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/21/kinect-will-be-coming-to-windows-ballmer/>

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/01/26/exclusive-rumor-kinect-2-to-accompany-launch-of-windows-8/>

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/01/15/rumors-for-windows-8-kinect-integration-is-a-go/>

Windows 8 Roaming Profiles?



On my blog, I have said several times that you need to be able to access your data and your user profile from anywhere and at any time with consistency.

Allegedly, there will be Roam Options allow users to roam the following items:

- Desktop Wallpaper
- Aero Glass Color
- Ease of access control panel
- Magnifier
- On screen keyboard
- Narrator
- Speech recognition settings
- Language profile
- Text prediction preferences
- IME dictionary
- Application settings and search history

And more...

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/27/windows-8-roaming-cloud-profiles/>

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/28/more-proof-of-windows-8-cloud-integration/>

Video of Windows 8 demoed



At a demonstration was held at the Computex 2011 in Taiwan, Microsoft corporate vice president Mike Angiulo showcased the new operating system for more than 30 minutes.

Microsoft's demo video from Computex has now been posted up for everyone to view.

The video focuses on the tablet interface which shows Microsoft's strategy for combating iOS and Android in the tablet market.

In the video, Microsoft Corporate Vice President, Mike Angiulo, takes the stage and shows off the platform in a 32 minute long presentation.

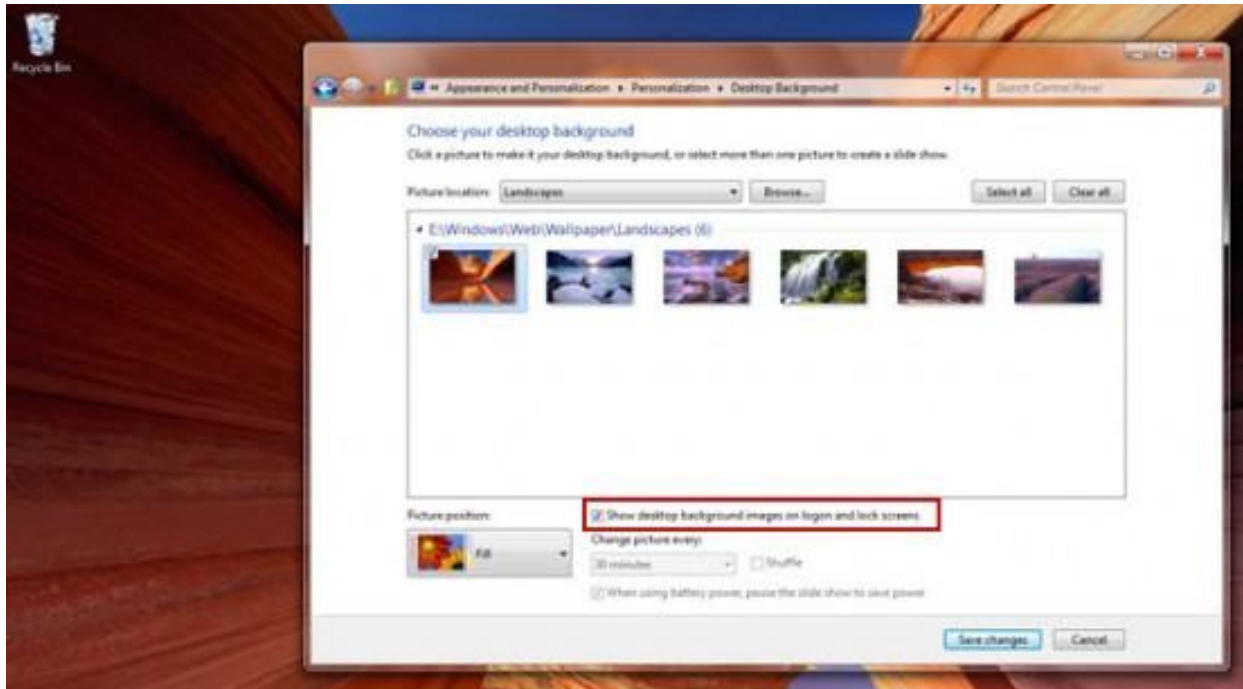
Angiulo also showed how Windows 8 works across x86 and ARM-based chips.

Microsoft previously introduced a technology preview of its Windows ARM support by showing off an early build of Windows 8 at CES 2011. Microsoft is partnering with ARM-based manufactures NVIDIA, Qualcomm and Texas Instruments to produce new Tablet devices.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/06/03/new-video-of-windows-8-beng-demoed/>
<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/06/01/official-windows-8-demo-video-from-microsoft/>

Windows 8 - Ability to modify login screen?



Windows 8 will allegedly add the ability to let users set desktop wallpaper as their logon or lock screen as well.

This functionality was some sort of official in Windows 7 but it seems that an option to change Logon screen has been added in Windows 8 Personalization Center.

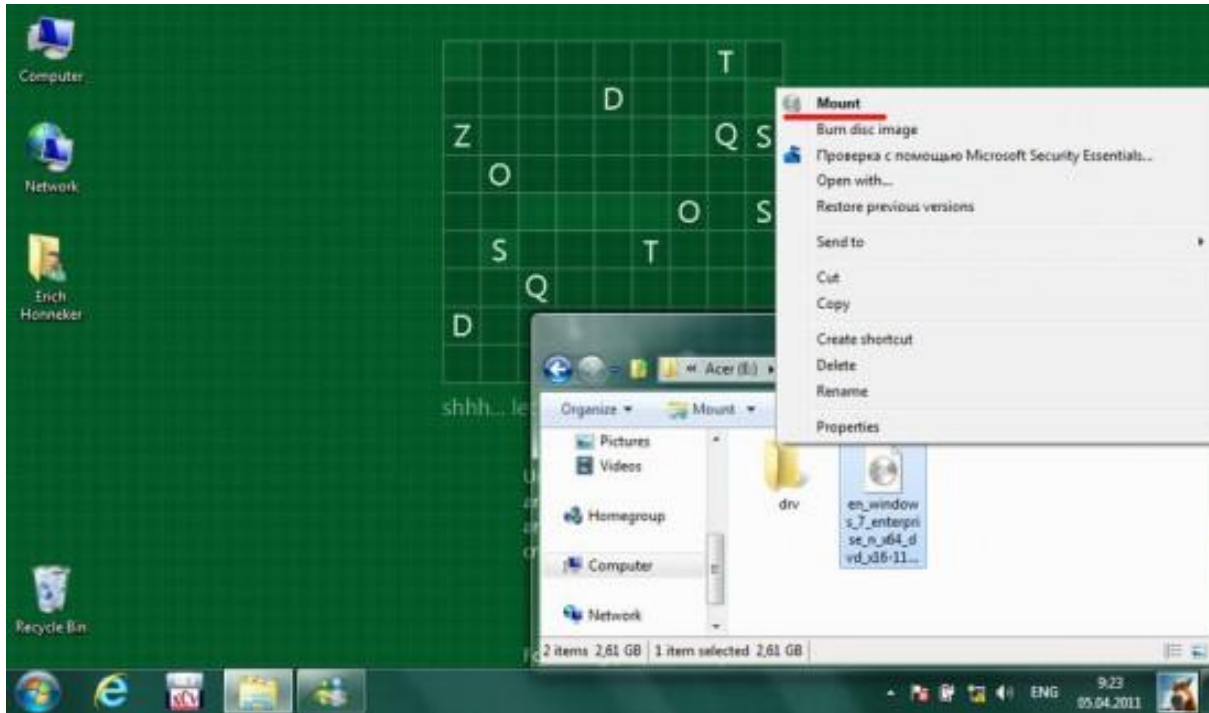
In earlier posted screenshots about Automatic Colorization in Windows 8 Aero, there is a new option in “Desktop Background” section. The checkbox is titled as “Show desktop background images on logon and lock screens”.

This built-in functionality to change Windows 8 Logon screen will enable users to get rid any tweak or 3rd party tools offering same service.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/08/windows-8-ability-to-use-wallpaper-as-login-screen/>

Support Mounting of iso's and VHDs?



Windows 8 will allegedly have built-in functionality to mount ISO images as reported at MDL Forums.

It was already reported that Windows 8 will by default support mounting of ISO and VHD images. However, a purported screenshot from Windows 8 confirms it. It seems that Windows 8 team intends to support some most commonly used features natively.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/05/windows-8-will-support-mounting-of-isos-and-vhd-images/>

Video support



Windows 8 will allegedly offer native support for 3d monitors.

Now this to me is a very big deal because in conjunction with the Kinect or Kinect 2, this could be a substantial game changer. I believe that this is one of the most important features that Windows 8 could bring to PC computing.

If people can play 3d games from their PC's with native support as well as have a camera detect their movements, it's literally almost like being in an arcade.

Add a solid set of Dolby Digital 5.1 speakers and what you have is a fully immersive experience.

It will be interesting to see if this particular feature makes it into the final product.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/05/06/windows-8-will-offer-native-support-for-3d-monitors/>

Top 10 features it should offer businesses



On this blog, I continue to be an advocate of not just cool tech features for consumers but for functionality that will add value to the enterprise as well.

Office and Windows are Microsoft's bread and butter. Corporate licensing makes up a lot of revenue for Microsoft when they deploy their client and server operating systems.

I wrote a book about deploying Windows 7 in the enterprise where I identified a lot of value that Windows 7 brought to the enterprise with Windows 7

I believe that companies will require the following features from Windows 8.

- 1) Ease of Deployment
- 2) Less Versions/ Easier Licensing
- 3) Tighter security

Read More:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/03/28/the-top-10-features-that-windows-8-should-offer-businesses/>

Windows 8 Interviews



Here are some quotes from Steve Ballmer's interview with Gartner analysts Neil McDonald and John Pescatore in front of 7000 CIO's and IT leaders at Gartner Symposium/IT Expo Orlando 2010.

McDonald: "Other than cloud computing, what's the riskiest product that you're currently making?"

Ballmer: "Next release of Windows."

Pescatore: "Privacy. Privacy in the cloud – oxymoron, or achievable?"

Ballmer: "Achievable! You made that so simple even I couldn't screw it up! Necessity is the mother of invention. People are going to insist on privacy in the cloud, and there's no reason why smart, technical people can't deliver on both. "

McDonald: "Next big hit – what's Microsoft's next one billion dollar market?"

Ballmer: "One billion? I thought you'd give me a harder time than that! Windows phone 7."

Read More...

<http://www.windows8update.com/category/windows-8-news/windows-8-interview/>

Vendors supporting Windows 8



Texas Instruments has announced that their new product will be able to run “operating systems such as Android, Linux and the next version of Microsoft Windows.”

The OMAP4470 processor will be multi-core based and will have speeds up to 1.8 GHz. Texas Instruments says that the processor’s speed will enable “80 percent increase in Web browsing performance, increased memory bandwidth” support for 2048×1536 resolutions and more.

It will also support up to three displays. It will use the POWERVR™ SGX544 core from Imagination Technologies for a “2.5x boost in graphics functionality.”

In another development, mobile processor maker Qualcomm officially announced that its Snapdragon line of processors will also support Windows 8 when it is released.

Luis Pineda, the senior vice president of product management, computing and consumer products at Qualcomm, is quoted in the press release as saying, “Our upcoming family of Snapdragon processors is intelligently integrated, optimized for mobile and built smarter, making it the ideal processor to address consumers’ growing demands for new, innovative experiences.....”

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/06/03/texas-instruments-announces-support-for-windows-8/>

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/06/03/qualcomm-announces-support-for-windows-8/>

Interview with Steven Sinofsky



As Windows president, Steven Sinofsky has a better perspective on Microsoft's new operating system than anyone. Not only did he extricate Microsoft from the Vista miasma, he's the guy who wrote the book on Windows 7. Literally.

Here are some excerpts from his interview:

Sinofsky – “And yes, it's called Windows 8, though that is only the code name.”

Sinofsky noted how Windows has gone from a 100MHz processor to something that can run servers in data centers. He also mentioned that the company is looking to scale Windows in a different direction.

Sinofsky spoke about how Tablet PC and Media Center were other examples of how the company has evolved Windows along the way and that the fact that they were adopted by some and show how flexible Windows can be.

Touch, he notes, came with Windows 7, which was first shown at D. As for why Microsoft did touch the way it did with Windows 7, Sinofsky notes that there wasn't an iPad then, or another touch-screen slate.

Read More:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/06/02/video-interview-with-steven-sinofsky-he-introduces-the-new-look-of-windows-windows-8/>

Official Windows 8 Preview Statement



Julie Larson-Green, Corporate vice president, Windows Experience

Microsoft have released the following article from Julie Larson-Green, the corporate vice president, Windows Experience.

REDMOND, Wash. – June 1, 2011 – Today, at the D9 Conference, we demonstrated the next generation of Windows, internally code-named “Windows 8,” for the first time. Windows 8 is a reimagining of Windows, from the chip to the interface. A Windows 8-based PC is really a new kind of device, one that scales from touch-only small screens through to large screens, with or without a keyboard and mouse.

The demo showed some of the ways we’ve reimagined the interface for a new generation of touch-centric hardware. Fast, fluid and dynamic, the experience has been transformed while keeping the power, flexibility and connectivity of Windows intact.

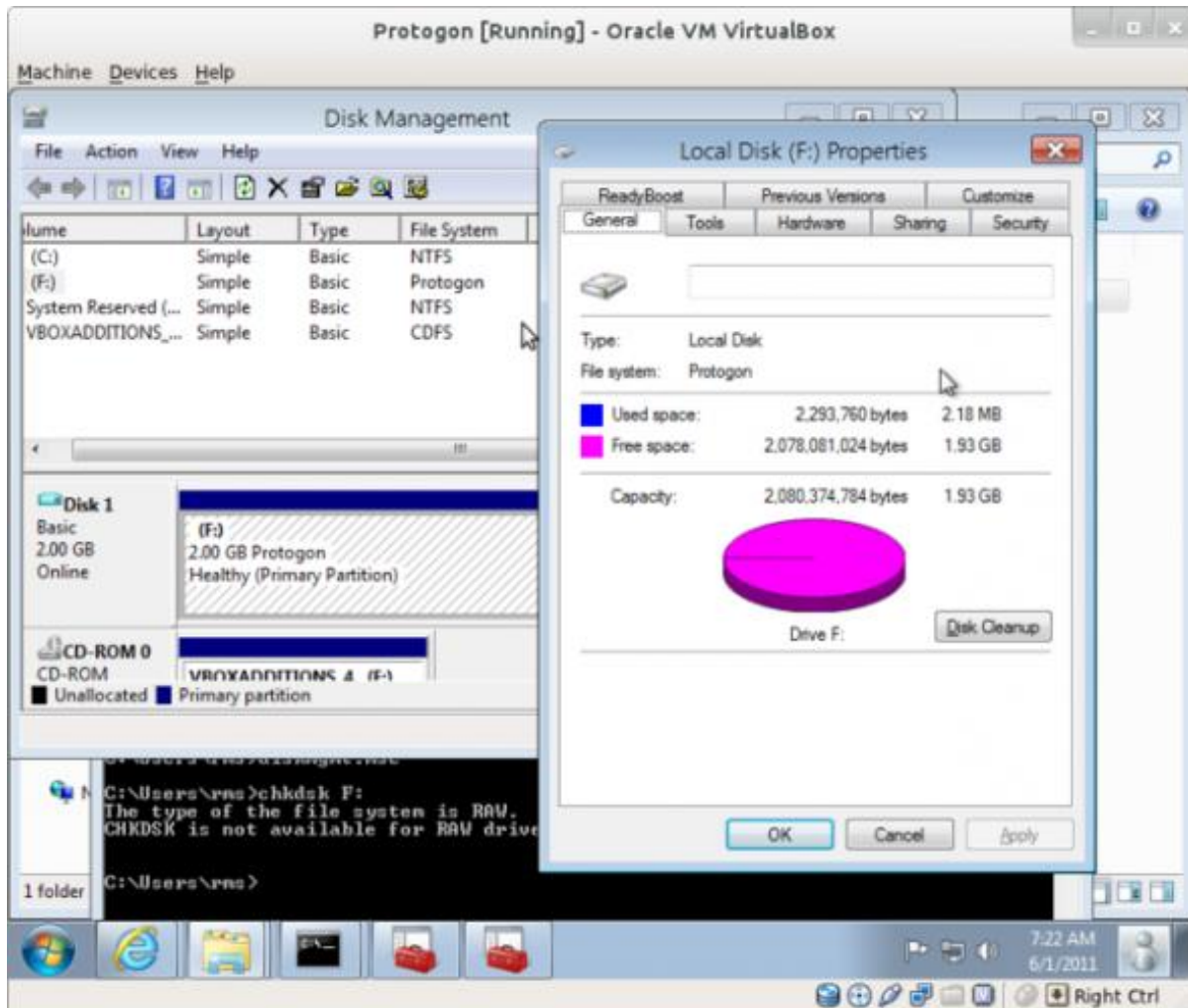
Here are a few aspects of the new interface we showed today:

- Fast launching of apps from a tile-based Start screen, which replaces the Windows Start menu with a customizable, scalable full-screen view of apps.
- Live tiles with notifications, showing always up-to-date information from your apps.
- Fluid, natural switching between running apps.

Read More:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/06/01/previewing-%e2%80%98windows-8%e2%80%99-an-article-by-julie-larson-green-corporate-vice-president-windows-experience/>

Windows 8 new File System Protogon



There is speculation that the next version of Windows will introduce a new file system Protogon (name yet not confirmed).

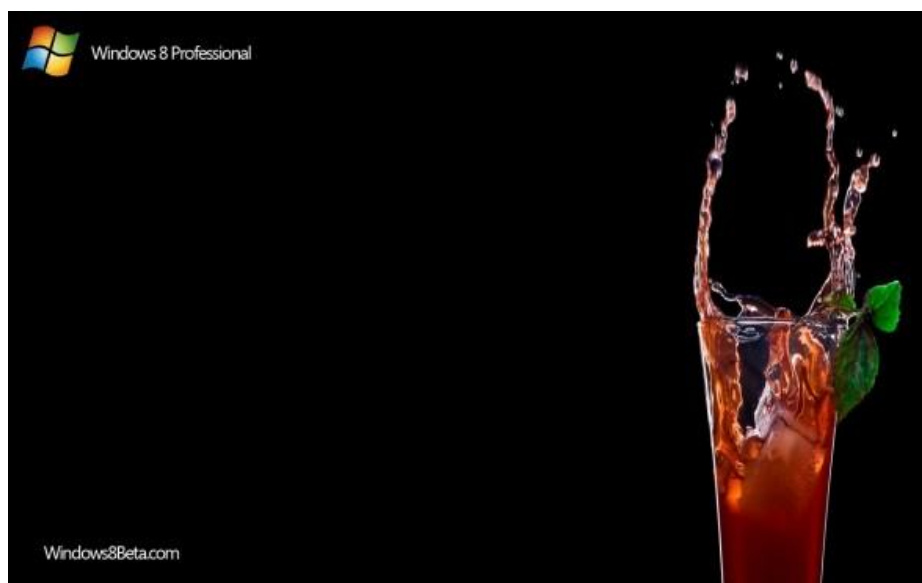
While exploring the new version of Windows some Microsoft Windows enthusiasts have come a completely new driver for the file system known as “NT Protogon file system driver” and the name for the file system had also been derives from that.

Read More

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/06/01/windows-8-new-file-system-protogon/>

Windows 8 Wallpapers

When there are new leaks, there are new Windows 8 wallpapers to go along with those leaks. To that end, here are some samples of Windows 8 wallpaper for Windows 8 M3 build 7989.



Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/category/windows8-artwork/windows-8-wallpapers/>

Is a Windows 8 store coming?



The fact that Windows 8 will be accompanied by a Cloud application hub dubbed the Windows Store is not really much of a secret anymore.

One of the most discussed features of Windows 8 is the possibility of inclusion of an app store into the Windows 8 Operating System. As per sources, Microsoft's Windows Store will be embedded in Windows 8 with a brand new logo.

Both trial as well as full downloads of apps are predicted to be available in the new Windows Store. The store feature was already visible in the Windows 8 Build 7955 leak.

The app store is expected to be HTML5 based and will deliver apps directly to the user's computer from Microsoft's Azure Cloud. It is also expected to be named "Windows Store".

As usual, information on the forthcoming iteration of Windows comes largely from leaks, with Build 7955 containing some new details.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.windows8update.com/2011/04/30/proof-that-a-windows-store-is-coming/>

Summary

Since the Operating System is not here yet, there is no way to verify any if not all of the information in this eBook.

However, these are the most popular leaks from the Microsoft fan community brought to you in this book.

In summary, Windows 8 is coming soon and it will be really interesting to see how it all turns out.

It will probably be out either late next year or early in 2013.

For more news and updates on Windows 8, visit www.windows8update.com

Hope you enjoyed this **FREE** eBook.

Regards,

Onuora Amobi