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This morning begins the Fourth Day of Dave Brenton's effort to inform the public of the dangers of Microsoft's new Vista operating system.

Brenton (53) from Dover, Tennessee, and self proclaimed 30 Year 'Computer Guy' has traveled to Manhattan to try to get his message to the public

The primary points are:

- 1) Unsophisticated Consumers are being ripped off due to their misunderstanding of technology and Microsoft's failure to Emphasize the Minimum Requirements to run Vista.
- 2) Vista's Digital Rights Management software – what Brenton calls “The-Cop-In-The-Box” – is invasive and smacks of Orwell's 1984.
- 3) The introduction of Vista miraculously coincided with a complete purge of all older non-Vista computers, more or less coast-to-coast.
- 4) If Vista is such a great product, why have agencies of the Federal Government (Department of Transportation, FAA, etc) forbidden its installation??

“Vista is the worst thing to happen to the small computer user in the history of personal computing,” says Brenton, an Internet Entrepreneur from Dover, Tennessee. “The regular folks out there have no idea what's wrong. They just know that the new-computer-feel isn't there.” Dave explains that one needs about twice the horsepower of previous computers just to run Vista and the memory requirements are on the order of 4 to 8 times as great – yet these new high performance machines often struggle just to push this huge piece of software to do its job.

“Vista is a memory hog,” says Brenton. “Running Vista with less than 1 gigabyte (1,024 Megabytes) of RAM just doesn't work. When running with 512 Megs of RAM, Vista uses more than 85% of available memory just to idle! 2 Gigabytes starts to feel sort of OK, but the experience is not what one expects.”

This poor user experience is far from the end of Dave's issues with Vista. “My greatest concerns are the Vista DRM (Digital Rights Management) system, which I call The-Cop-In-The-Box, and the failure of Microsoft to state clearly and honestly what the Minimum System Requirements are just to run Vista.”

Brenton explains that the DRM system, according to Microsoft, is so tightly bound to the new system that it cannot be turned off, even in machines that are used in offices and therefore present little or no threat of copyright violation issues. Microsoft DRM is intended to protect copyrighted content; Microsoft has included it with no fanfare at all, in an attempt to win favor with the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). By doing so, Brenton claims, “They [Microsoft] are trying to position themselves as the ‘Holy Keepers of the Content’ for the Digital Millennium. Microsoft Operating software in all new set-top boxes and digital recording devices would be worth billions to Gates and company!”

“I think it's outrageous that Microsoft is merchandising the product through the typical channels without making the Minimum System Requirements ABSOLUTELY clear. When Grandma finally decides to upgrade her old Windows '98 box and trots down to Wal-Mart, there's no one there to warn her that her computer won't even install Vista, let alone run it. These are not sophisticated users, but they are going to be out a big chunk of change if they purchase the Vista operating system. Microsoft's shrink-wrap license is clear: you open it, you can't return it. Never mind that it won't and cannot work for you.”

Brenton's WheresTheWow.com website explains these issues in more detail.