

The graphics processor – your essential Vista ingredient

Windows Vista is setting new standards for graphics in everyday applications and that means the graphics processor is your PC's new best friend.

2007 is the year of Windows Vista and over the last few months PC users have been bombarded with info about Microsoft's latest. Even if you're not one of those queuing up for their copy right now, chances are you'll think about going Vista next time you upgrade your PC. However, Vista's demands on your system are much higher than previous operating systems and you need to make sure your

replaced with a much more sophisticated view – windows become transparent so flipping between applications is a breeze and files appear as mini-thumbnails for easy identification.

This actually makes the interface less intrusive, so you can focus on the task in hand. It also means that, for the first time,



computer is up to the job. It's clear at a glance that Vista is very graphics-intensive, so one of the most important elements in creating your Vista-ready platform is a graphics processing unit (GPU).

A graphics processor does exactly what it says – it's a processor dedicated to graphics. Unlike your central processing unit (CPU), it's specifically designed to be very effective at doing graphics-intensive tasks. Vista taps into the dedicated graphics processing power of the GPU to create a distinctive 3D interface called Aero, which comes as part of the Premium version of Vista. Aero uses 3D graphics to make everyday tasks in Vista easier and more intuitive, whether you're emailing, word processing, viewing digital photos, watching high-definition videos, playing games or surfing the web. It's Aero that gives Vista the distinctive look and feel that's fast becoming familiar from screenshots and demos. The bright colours of XP are

3D graphics are an integral part of your computer's operating system and will become an indispensable part of everything you do with your PC. Microsoft's recommended minimum specifications for running Vista Premium are support for DirectX 9 graphics with a WDDM driver, 128MB of graphics memory, Pixel Shader 2.0 and 32 bits per pixel. Strip away the tech talk and the message is simple: investing in a good GPU is essential for getting the best Vista experience.

If your PC doesn't meet these criteria, you could have a problem. Vista adapts to take advantage of the hardware on which it is installed, so any features your computer can't handle will automatically be



Video and gaming with Vista

Vista's not all work, work, work – it's also designed to handle movies, TV and games with ease. Combined with an NVIDIA graphics processor, you can create a rock-solid system that's primed for entertainment. NVIDIA has a wide range of GeForce® graphics processors which are Vista Ready and loaded with features to transform your PC from beige box to home entertainment heaven. For the film buff there's NVIDIA® PureVideo™, a technology built into NVIDIA graphics processors to make sure that your favourite movies run flawlessly. Your computer can even become a high definition home cinema with PureVideo HD. A GeForce graphics processor will also make a big difference if you're a gamer, giving you more speed and detail for an awesome gaming experience.

switched off, even if you've paid for the Premium version.

The bottom line is that the better your graphics processor, the more you'll get from Vista. It's the single most important ingredient in making your PC Vista Premium Ready and it doesn't have to cost the earth. Graphics specialist NVIDIA has made sure that there's a whole range of Vista Ready graphics cards to suit your requirements and your pocket.

Whether you buy a new PC or choose to upgrade your existing system, a little planning will make a world of difference to your Vista experience. Specify at least an entry level graphics processor for your desktop or laptop system and you'll see more benefit in Vista than you would by spending the same amount on CPU power or extra memory. Check out www.nvidia.co.uk/vista to find your perfect graphics partner and make sure you'll be getting the best from Vista.

