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## WINDOWS 7 UPDATE Companies Moving to Win7

This story has been written before...companies did not move to Vista, but are now ready to move to Windows 7. Apparently the word of mouth and the individual beta testing has paid off for Microsoft. According to a survey, conducted by Computerworld, with over 285 IT professionals, the results show that 72% of the respondents plan to migrate to Windows 7. Of that number, 70% say that they will make the move within a year or that they already are installing it.

Windows 7 is an opportunity for IT to take advantage of new features and provide better integration. Some tool sets like Microsoft's System Center Configuration Manager can save a company money by using fewer pieces of management software; it can also make managing desktops easier. Other operating systems like Server 2008 can work seamlessly with Windows 7 making integration even easier.



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## 9 Cool Things You Can Do With a USB Flash Drive

By Greg Shultz

Transporting your data is probably the most common use for a USB flash drive. But there's a world of other things you can do with these handy pocket-size drives. Here are 10 ways you can use that USB flash drive to do more than simply just move data.

### 1: Run portable applications

In addition to storing your data, you can run portable applications from a USB flash drive. For example, [OpenOffice](#), which is a complete office suite that includes a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation tool, drawing package, and database, is available as a portable application. Mozilla Firefox and Thunderbird are also available as portable applications. When you combine the office suite with the ability to surf the Web and check email, you'll be able to take your most vital computing applications with you wherever you go -- right in your pocket.

If that's not enough, you can choose other applications to install on your USB flash drive from [PortableApps.com](#) (Figure A). You can even install an entire prepackaged suite of applications that includes such things as an audio player, games, an antivirus utility, and a handy menu system. **Figure A**

### 2: Boot an operating system

If you want to do more than just run your own applications, you might want to consider booting an entire operating system from your USB flash drive. You can boot either Windows or Linux from a USB flash drive; however, the process is not an exact science and



you may be in for a technical adventure.

Fortunately, there are some guides you can follow. To learn how to boot Windows XP from a USB flash drive, see the article [Creating a bootable USB flash drive for Windows XP](#). To learn how to boot a version of Linux from a USB flash drive, see the article [Puppy Linux teaches an old dog new tricks](#).

**Famous Quote** - A computer lets you make more mistakes faster than any invention in human history - with the possible exceptions of handguns and tequila. -Mitch Ratcliffe

# Computer Humor!

## MURPHY'S LAWS OF COMPUTING

~ For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.

~ To err is human... to blame your computer for your mistakes is even more human; in fact it is downright natural.

~ He who laughs last probably made a back-up.

~ If at first you don't succeed, blame your computer.

~ A complex system that does not work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.

~ The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions.

~ A computer program will always do what you tell it to do, but rarely what you want it to do.

~ When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.

~ When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

~ The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you least expect to find it.

~ When the going gets tough, upgrade.

# 9 Cool Things You Can Do With a USB Flash Drive

*Continued from page 1*

## 3: Connect to a wireless network

If you have a wireless network, you can use the Wireless Network Setup Wizard in Windows XP or the Windows Connect Now (WCN) feature built into Windows 7 to save wireless network configuration information to a USB flash drive. You can then use your drive to quickly and easily connect another computer or a WCN-compatible device, such as a router or printer, to your wireless network. To learn more about using the Wireless Network Setup Wizard, see the Help And Support Center, which is accessible from Windows XP's Start menu. To learn more about using the Windows Connect Now feature, see Windows Help And Support, which is accessible from Windows 7's Start menu.

## 4: Password-protect it

If you use a USB flash drive to transport sensitive data that you would prefer to protect from prying eyes, should you lose the drive, Rohos Mini Drive (**Figure B**) can safeguard that data. This security tool allows you to create a secret partition on the drive and then password-protect/encrypt that partition, thus protecting any documents you copy to that partition via the utility's file manager. You can download and read a review of [Rohos Mini Drive at CNET Download.com](#).



**Figure B**

## 5: Create a password reset disk

A password reset disk can really come in handy if you forget the password to your user account on a Windows system that is not a part of a domain. If you find yourself in that situation, you can use the password reset disk to reset your password and quickly get back into your user account. In Windows 7, you can use USB flash drive rather than a floppy disk as a password reset disk. For details on how to do so, see the article [Create a Windows 7 password reset disk using a USB flash drive](#).

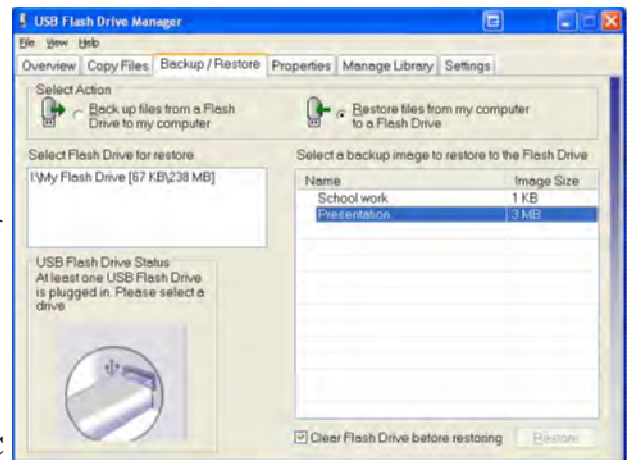
## 6: Boost performance

If you're running Windows 7, you can use a USB flash drive to speed up your system with the ReadyBoost technology. ReadyBoost can use the storage space on a USB Flash drive as an additional memory cache to aid the memory cache on your hard disk. And because flash memory is more responsive than a hard disk, with its physical moving parts, the memory cache provided by ReadyBoost can significantly improve system responsiveness.

Using ReadyBoost is easy. You just insert your USB flash drive into your Windows 7 system and follow the onscreen prompts to configure and use ReadyBoost. If you want more details, check out the article [How Windows 7 ReadyBoost work](#).

## 7: Manage it

If all you really want to do with your USB flash drive is transport data, and you're running Windows XP, you can do so more efficiently with the Microsoft USB Flash Drive Manager (**Figure C**). Once you have installed this manager, you can easily copy files to and from your drive, back up and restore the entire flash drive to and from your hard disk, change the drive label, and even create an autorun.inf file to launch Drive Manager automatically when you plug in the drive. To learn more about and download the USB Flash Drive Manager visit the [Microsoft TechNet Magazine site](#).



**Figure C**

*(Continued on page 3)*

## LET'S GO SURFING

### Get a faster connection

If you still use a dial-up account, it's time to upgrade. Consider getting a high-speed service such as DSL or a cable modem. It may cost a bit more, but it will greatly improve your experience and productivity.

### Save keystrokes by using Bookmarks or Favorites

Web addresses or URLs can be unwieldy. Worse, if you type them wrong, you get an error message. To avoid these problems, save the addresses of sites you want to revisit. For details on how to do this, read the Bookmarks and Favorites article.

### Use the Find feature of your web browser

Once you've accessed a web page, use the Find feature under the Edit menu to quickly locate the content that interests you. Don't take the time to scroll through the entire document.

### Pick two search engines and learn how they work

With the vast amount of online content, the biggest difficulty is finding specific information. Although dozens of search engines are available, pick two, then take the time to learn them well. For more on this read Searching the Web. In case you're interested, our top choices are Google and Yahoo!.

### Surf during off-peak hours

Commuters experience rush hour, when highways bog down with traffic. The same phenomenon happens occasionally on the Internet--although not nearly as often as in the past--usually in the late afternoon and early evening, when people log on to check e-mail, chat and play games. If you want to avoid the slowdown, go online in the morning or late at night, when traffic is lighter.



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### 8: Use it as an MP3 player

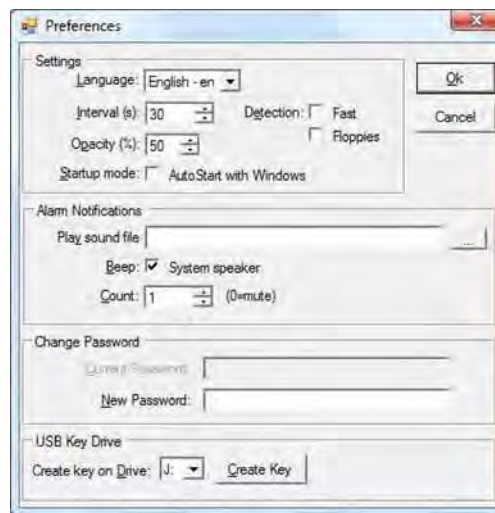
Would you like to be listening to music when you're using a computer at the office, but you don't have an MP3 player? If so, you can use a USB flash drive as an MP3 player along with Windows Media Player and a set of headphones. Just copy your MP3 files to your USB flash drive, plug it into your computer, and direct Windows Media Player to build a library of the songs on your drive. You can use all of Windows Media Player's playback features, such as playlists and favorites, to easily customize your music listening experience. And best of all, you won't have to worry about running low on battery power.

### 9: Lock your PC

Have you ever seen a movie in which a person in some secret government installation simply inserts and removes a card to log in and log out of a PC? If you thought that idea was cool, you'll definitely want to investigate Predator (**Figure D**). Once installed and configured, this little free-ware utility will allow you to turn a USB flash drive into a key you can use to lock and unlock your computer.

While the USB flash drive is connected to your computer, everything works as it normally would. Once you remove the USB flash drive, your computer is locked down -- the keyboard and mouse are disabled and the screen darkens. To unlock your computer, you just plug in the USB flash drive and the computer will be unlocked and you can begin

Figure D



## How is Microsoft planning to hawk Office 2010?

By Mary Jo Foley | May 10, 2010, 8:16am PDT

The most frequent question I've been getting for the past year-plus regarding Office 2010 is whether it's worth an upgrade. Is there anything in [Microsoft's soon-to-be-released office suite](#) that Office XP, Office 2003 and/or Office 2007 users of the suite might find "compelling"? Will any of Office 2010's features put a dent in Google Docs' momentum among the home, student and SMB set?

Because Office users are such a varied bunch, it's hard to answer that question in a succinct blog post. But a Microsoft partner shared with me a list of what Microsoft considers to be Office 2010's top 10 features. If you want to know how Microsoft plans to hawk its Office 2010 suite to end users, here's the "elevator pitch":

Top 10 reasons for End Users to try Microsoft Office 2010

#### 1. Edit and enhance photos in Word or PowerPoint 2010.

Put more visual impact in your documents or presentations with easy-to-use photo-editing tools that let you crop, control brightness and contrast, sharpen or soften, and add artistic visual effects without leaving Word 2010 or PowerPoint 2010.

#### 2. Put your presentation message in motion with PowerPoint 2010.

Edit videos right in PowerPoint 2010, breaking longer clips down into shorter segments or reducing file size to make your presentation portable. Then dial up the visual impact by adjusting color, adding new video effects, and incorporating new dynamic slide transitions and animations.

#### 3. Access, edit, and share from virtually anywhere with Office Web Apps on Windows Live SkyDrive.

Get things done when you're away from the office, home, or school by creating documents in Office 2010, then posting them online to Windows Live SkyDrive to access, view, and edit - either alone or with others -

(Continued on page 4)

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### Flag Day Trivia

In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened that day by resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; in August 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.



## The PC Manager's Special Section



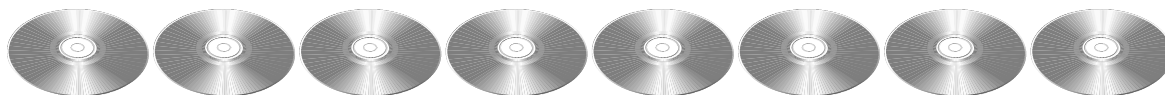
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(Continued from page 3)

with Office Web Apps from virtually anywhere you have Internet access.\*

\*An appropriate device, Internet connection, and Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Chrome browser are required. There are some differences between the features of the Office Web Apps and the Office 2010 applications. (MJF note: Yes, [there sure are some differences.](#))

#### **4. Organize all of your information in a single place in OneNote 2010.**

Create a digital notebook in OneNote 2010 to capture and share text, images, video, audio — all your thoughts, ideas, and important information in a single, easy-to-access location.

#### **5. Make presentations from virtually anywhere in PowerPoint 2010.**

Broadcast your PowerPoint 2010 presentation through a web browser to a remote audience of one or 100 — even if they don't have PowerPoint — with Broadcast Slide Show.

#### **6. Take control of email conversations with Outlook 2010.**

Track and manage your email easily with Conversation View in Outlook 2010, a feature that lets you condense, categorize, and even ignore lengthy email exchanges with a single click.

#### **7. Analyze finances easily at home and at work with Excel 2010.**

Use Sparklines in Excel 2010 to create small charts that make it easy to highlight trends in data at a glance, and highlight specific items in your data set with just a few clicks using improved Conditional Formatting.

#### **8. Stay connected to your network with Outlook 2010.**

The all-new Outlook Social Connector connects you to the social and business networks you use, including Microsoft SharePoint, Windows Live, or other popular third-party sites, so you can get more information and stay in touch.

#### **9. Find the features you need fast and personalize your Ribbon.**

An improved Ribbon lets you access your favorite commands quickly and customize or create tabs to personalize the experience to your work style.

#### **10. Discover all the tools you need to work with your documents with the new Backstage view.**

The [Microsoft Office Backstage view](#) provides a rich full-screen environment for working. I think it's interesting how much the Softies are playing up PowerPoint (!) as one of the most compelling new components of Office 2010... and how relatively little they are pushing Office Web Apps — though that might be partially because [Office Web Apps still has a long way to go](#) to deliver on the promises Microsoft has made for its Web-centric collaboration complement to Office.