



Now that we are done supporting the government with our taxes and don't feel that we have anything left for ourselves, I need to bring you up to date on the current status of your computer(s).

Microsoft has announced that it will stop selling Windows XP as of June 30, 2008. The replacement operating system for Windows XP is Windows Vista.

At this time there are still issues with Vista including its hefty hardware requirements, lack of performance, incompatibility with existing hardware and software (including old DOS programs that you might still be using), and irritating security pop-up windows.

Therefore, if you wish to replace any older, slower computers, you have less than 75 days to do so without being forced to purchase a new computer having Vista as its operating system.

If you go into the stores looking for a new PC you will currently find few if any options running XP. But, I can still get machines that are running either Windows XP Professional or Windows XP Home. There are also some online hardware companies that will sell select machines with XP on them.

Support for any existing computers you own or purchase now with Windows XP on them will still be supported by Microsoft until April 8, 2014. That gives you an additional 6 years from now to run your existing computers while waiting for the right time to upgrade to a newer computer running a newer operating system. This will also give you time to make sure that all of the software that you are running will be compatible with any new operating system. After all, if you can't use your computer to run your business than it isn't there to help you and it just becomes a very expensive paperweight or anchor for you boat.

At this time, prices for computers have decreased compared to a year ago. Of course, price is dependent upon the features that you need to have in the computer.

So, don't wait until the end of June to decide if you want or need a new computer that is running XP so that your existing software, etc. will still work. Call me so we can price a computer(s) out and come up with a time frame to purchase and install it.

For more information on this or on any other concern you have, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jeff.lipshaw@aflcc.com](mailto:jeff.lipshaw@aflcc.com) or at 248-425-0009.