

**Current Technology Projects and Pilot Programs in the County.**

**Matt Arthur Elementary**

A 5th grade class is using iPads in the classroom for their reading class. They have a cart of 30 iPads that each student uses for different activities for the day. It has proven to be a positive and engaging experience.

**Perry Middle**

An 8th grade class is also testing iPads in the classroom with a class set of 30. The science class is using the iPads to learn more in this subject area using interactive apps on molecule creation and other science related areas.

**Quail Run Elementary**

A 5th grade class is testing a series of four virtual desktops in a classroom. The 4 desktops are all powered by one single computer. The workstation can handle up to 20 devices. The hope is to use one device to take the place of multiple to cut costs and save energy. The project will be expanded in the coming year.



What first-time Windows 7 users really need to know.

Moving to Windows 7 is not as scary as it sounds!

**Start Menu Tips**

Many people overlook the Start Menu, rarely using it except as a jumping off point to run an application or get to the Control Panel. But there's actually plenty you can do with it. It has a built in search box to allow you to search for all programs and documents. If you know part of the documents name or just part of the program name, it can help you find it quickly. It can also be a quick way to jump to a webpage by typing in a web address.

**Task Bar Tips**

Your start menu along the bottom now groups your programs by similar items. For example your Office Chat windows will all be grouped together. If you put your mouse over the grouping it will load a pop view of thumbnails for each item. The same works for any items you have tabbed when using different tabs for internet browsing windows. Each webpage will load as a thumbnail allowing you to quickly jump to that window.

**Launch Taskbar Apps Without a Mouse**

Likewise, you can launch any program on the taskbar without the mouse. Press the Windows key and the number that corresponds to the position of the application on the taskbar -- for example, Windows key-1 to launch the left-most application on the taskbar, Windows key-2 to launch the second left-most application and so on.



**Why is Windows 7 better than XP?**

Windows 7 is actually much faster than XP. It also runs better as an operating system. The memory management is quicker to respond to the applications it is hosting.

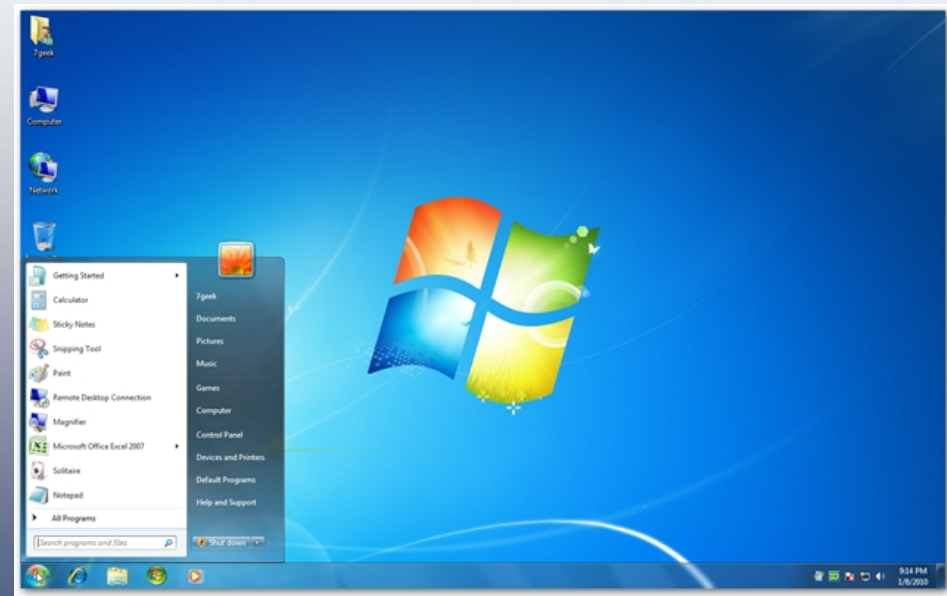
The look and feel of the system will at first be different, but once you get use the menu structure you will see that it is very much the same in a lot of ways. It definitely has a nicer look and feel.

Most all of your applications should run fine, there are some known to not work. If you run into an application that does not work make a work order using "helpdesk.hcbe.net".

Sometimes running the program in compatibility mode will allow it to work correctly. If the program is a legacy type program it very well may require an upgrade or update from its publisher.

Tech Services for Houston Schools is also taking the extra step and installing Windows 7 64bit on new workstations. This allows us to take advantage of more memory power on work stations.

With 32bit operating systems the memory limit was 4gigs. 64bit allows us to go higher (8gig). This is a huge step in maximizing the power of a classroom workstation.



**This Month's Q&A Technology Tips**

*Question: What is the best way to back up my work and personal data on my computer and how often?*

*Answer: The best way to back up any data from your work or personal computer is to copy it to a portable usb storage device. They come in all*



*Large 500 gig portable usb drives are around \$70 and can be bought at any office store. It is as simple as plugging it in, doing a copy*

*and paste of that data to the portable drive. TSC also allows you to back up to the server using your Z:\ drive. I recommend backing up once a week or everyday if its that important.*

**APPS OF THE MONTH**



**EverNote**

Evernote turns the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad into an extension of your brain, helping you remember anything and everything that happens in your life.

From notes to ideas to snapshots to recordings, put it all into Evernote and watch as it instantly synchronizes from your iPhone to your Mac or Windows desktop.



**Find My iPhone!**

If you misplace your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, or Mac, the Find My iPhone app will let you use another iOS device to find it and protect your data. Simply install this free app on another iOS device, open it, and sign in with your Apple ID.