How to Upgrade your PC Operating System

Both Microsoft and Apple recently released major new operating systems for the low, low upgrade price of free! Both of these updates contain major new features, bug fixes, and optimizations, and therefore you should seriously consider upgrading to them.

If you have Windows 8, you can upgrade to Windows 8.1.

If you have a Mac, OS X Mavericks supports either any Mac that works with Mountain Lion or one of these Macs if it has at least 2GB of memory, at least 8GB of free disk space, and is already running OS X 10.6.8 or later:

- iMac (Mid 2007 or newer)
- MacBook (Late 2008 Aluminum, or Early 2009 or newer)
- MacBook Air (Late 2008 or newer)
- MacBook Pro 13-inch (Mid-2009 or newer)
- MacBook Pro 15-inch (Mid/Late 2007 or newer)
- MacBook Pro 17-inch (Late 2007 or newer)
- Mac mini (Early 2009 or newer)
- Mac Pro (Early 2008 or newer)
- Xserve (Early 2009)

To learn more about what these upgrades provide you, either google "Windows 8.1 features" or "OS X Mavericks features".

To prepare your PC (either Windows or OS X) for the upgrade, you should do the following:

1. Allocate several hours for the upgrade. Both updates are quite large (several gigabytes) and the download will vary from an hour to much longer depending on how fast your Internet connection is.
2. Make sure all non-optional updates have been installed on your current system.
3. Make sure you either create a system image of the current system or have everything you need should the upgrade fail requiring you to reinstall your current operating system. On Windows, use the built-in facilities to create a system image and either a system recovery disc or a recovery USB key. On the Mac, be sure Time Machine has run recently and completed successfully.
4. Verify the file system integrity. On Windows, run "chkdsk /f"; on Mac run "Disk Utility".

5. Download the update.
6. Run the update. The computer may restart a few times during the update process.

As always, I hope you have found this information useful. If you do not wish to receive these emails in the future, let me know.

This newsletter, as well as all past newsletters, can be found on my web site (http://steve.gimnicher.com).