



# IN BRIEF

MALPRACTICE AVOIDANCE NEWSLETTER FOR OREGON LAWYERS

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## WINDOWS XP

If you are – or are about to become – a user of Windows XP Professional or XP Home Edition, here are some insights that you should find helpful.

### FEATURES

- Can burn CD data and music natively.
  - Can compress files and folders natively.
  - Can remotely connect to a computer running XP Professional and take over its desktop. This is similar to PCAnywhere by Symantec.
  - Has new implementations in its code structure that will help to keep your system from crashing or freezing. (For stability, XP is built on the code base of NT & Windows 2000, but it also has new features such as System File Protection, System Restore, and Device Driver Rollback.)
  - Has an enhanced ability to run many types of software – especially games and media-based applications.
  - Has a faster and better-implemented means of having more than one person use the computer.
  - Has an improved Start Menu that remembers the programs you use most often and automatically resets itself based on those programs.
  - Easily reverts to “classic” settings, allowing you to automatically change the components to look as they did in prior versions. The Control Panel and Start Menu are examples of this.
  - Has one software program that contains a video and DVD player, CD Player, Internet Radio Tuner and Jukebox for MP3 and WMA files.
- Places heavy emphasis on graphics that can hog CPU and RAM and cause a performance degradation if you don't have CPU and RAM in sufficient amounts. (There are steps you can take to minimize the graphics, but those steps have little effect.)
  - Requires you to “activate” your system with Microsoft. Although the process is anonymous, you will need to do it unless you are part of the Microsoft open license program.
  - Does not allow XP Home to join an NT or 2000 Server domain. If you need to connect your laptop to the corporate LAN, you will probably want to have XP Professional running on it.

### TIPS AND TRICKS

If you are using Windows XP or thinking of upgrading, Microsoft offers many useful tips and tricks online. Visit [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) regularly for new postings. Here are a few to get you started:

- **Finding XP-Compatible Hardware and Software.** The Windows Catalog at [www.microsoft.com/windows/catalog/catalogshell/shell.asp?subid=22](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/catalog/catalogshell/shell.asp?subid=22) contains a listing of XP-compatible products. To take advantage of the new features in XP and reduce system errors and conflicts, look for the “Designed for Windows XP” logo. If a hardware or software product does not contain this logo, check with the manufacturer to verify XP compatibility.
- **Updating Drivers to Work with Windows XP.** A driver is a piece of software that allows your hardware to work with your computer. Upgrading drivers usually goes hand in hand with upgrading an operating system. If you install Windows XP and find that your computer

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doesn't recognize a piece of hardware or that the hardware device doesn't work, a driver upgrade may solve your problems. Go to the Windows Update page at <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com> and click on Product Updates in the left-hand column. The Windows Update site will automatically scan your system. Click on Device Drivers to determine what might be necessary to update your system. If you can't find the driver you need on Microsoft's site, check the manufacturer's site. Keep in mind that some drivers on manufacturer web sites may not have passed Microsoft's compatibility testing and could damage your computer. If you try to install a driver that has not been approved, you will see a warning message. If this message appears, Microsoft strongly recommends abandoning the installation and contacting the manufacturer about obtaining a compatible driver.

- **To Upgrade or Not to Upgrade: That Is the Question.** If you haven't moved to Windows XP yet, visit Microsoft's Upgrade Advisor at [www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/howtobuy/upgrading/advisor.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/howtobuy/upgrading/advisor.asp). The Upgrade Advisor is a tool that checks your current system hardware and software to see if it is ready to upgrade to XP. If you run it while you are connected to the Internet and your system needs updates that are available on Microsoft's site, Upgrade Advisor will find and install the updates for you.
- **Keeping Your System Current with Windows XP.** Windows XP takes the guesswork out of keeping your software updated by providing the newest and best code for device drivers, security, reliability, and performance. By using the Automatic Updates feature, you can ensure that your computer is always current. Whenever you are on the Internet, XP will check for the latest updates and download them in the background while you continue working. Or if you prefer, let XP send you reminders about updates. To use the Automatic Updates feature, click Start, click Control Panel, click Performance and Maintenance, and then click System. On the Automatic Updates tab, click the setting of your choice.
- **Downloading the XP Security Patch.** The Windows XP Security Patch is available from Microsoft's download center, [www.microsoft.com/Downloads/Release.asp?ReleaseID=34951](http://www.microsoft.com/Downloads/Release.asp?ReleaseID=34951). The

Patch is designed to eliminate two areas of vulnerability that might allow a malicious user to compromise your computer or use it to interfere with another computer's operation.

- **Learning XP.** The Windows XP Professional How-To Articles will coach you on many topics, including personalizing your computer, instant messaging, working offline, working with multimedia, networking, security and maintenance, and obtaining technical help and support. Visit [www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/howto/default.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/howto/default.asp). For columns by advanced users, tips, and newsgroups, visit [www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/expertzone/tips/default.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/expertzone/tips/default.asp).
- **Consulting XP Resources.** For answers to Windows XP problems, consider "Troubleshooting Microsoft Windows XP" from Microsoft Press, [www.microsoft.com/mspress/books/5579.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/mspress/books/5579.asp).
- **Protecting Your Investment.** The Hibernation feature in Windows XP will help you address the document loss that could occur if the power supply is interrupted for longer than your battery lasts. Click Start, click Control Panel, click Performance and Maintenance, and then click Power Options. On the Hibernate tab, select Enable Hibernate Support. Specify a time for the computer to switch to hibernation. This should be less than the battery run time. (On the Power Schemes tab, set a time for System Hibernate under Running on Batteries.)

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