

# 7 steps to Vista deployment

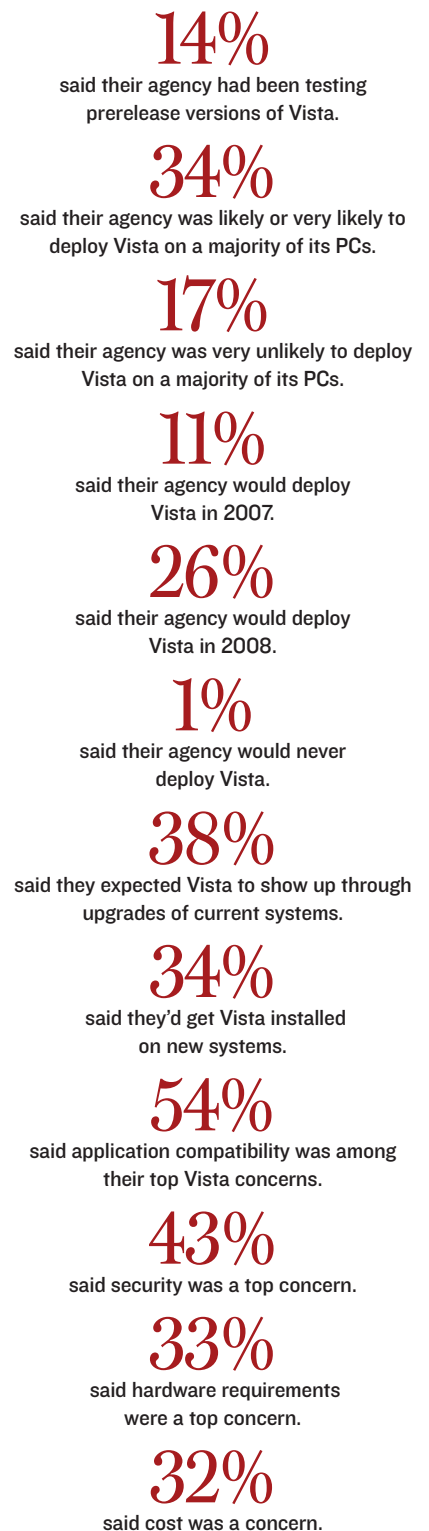
Preparing a large-scale deployment of Windows Vista? Microsoft and others have plenty of advice on how to do it smoothly.

- 1 Check application compatibility.** First, take an inventory of the applications in your enterprise. Check which applications can work with Vista. For those that can't, find out if the vendors plan to offer new drivers and upgrades. If not, you may have to look for new software packages or hold off on deployment.
- 2 Build and test the new OS.** Your profile of the applications you deploy will give you a baseline for building a single image, or version of Windows Vista, that can be deployed across the entire enterprise. By running a single image, you can minimize maintenance issues that might proliferate if users set their own configuration preferences. Test the new image in a controlled environment to ensure it works well.
- 3 Tend to infrastructure management.** Inventory the hardware specifications of the computers where you plan to install Vista. This inventory will not only ensure that all your equipment meets the minimum requirements, but also that the equipment has enough leeway to perform adequately (so that, for instance, you don't get user complaints about slow performance).
- 4 Perform user-state migration.** Just prior to mass installation, copy each user's data files, as well as their OS and application settings. After installation, you will return this data to each computer. During this process, you should also set any organization-specific network and application settings.
- 5 Deploy the OS.** Now it's time to roll out the OS. Microsoft recommends using one of two approaches: "light touch" or "zero touch." In light touch, you can install the OS and applications from a central server, though a technician still needs to visit each desktop computer to finalize configurations. The zero-touch approach, as its name implies, requires no site visit, though it requires more back-end support, such as Microsoft's Systems Management Server.
- 6 Security and patching.** After the new images and data files are installed, apply any security patches and updates issued since the OS was released.
- 7 Provisioning rights.** Finally, you need to provision administrative rights to those users who handle specialized tasks. At this point, you can also deploy or update software that can handle administrative and complex workflow management issues.

For more information, visit Microsoft's Desktop Deployment site by going to [GCN.com](http://GCN.com) and entering 703 in the Quickfind box.—**Joab Jackson**

# Vista adoption, in your words

EARLIER THIS MONTH, Government Computer News surveyed readers about their plans for adopting Microsoft Windows Vista. Here's what they had to say.



SOURCE: Government Computer News survey of 229 readers conducted online Oct. 5 to 10. Other top Vista concerns (at least 20 percent of respondents): Hardware compatibility, system performance, patch management, training.