

HUMANIZING TECHNOLOGY

By Frank, *Your* Computer Tutor

OUCH!! Microsoft Windows 98, Me Support Ends - Includes XP v. SP1

After October 10th, 2006, Microsoft will no longer support **Windows 98, ME (Millennium)** and the updating for its **WINDOWS XP SP1**.

<http://www.techweb.com/wire/software/190301383>

What this means is that it's time to update or upgrade; if not, you may experience some very serious computing issues. This is how you check to see what version of Windows you have, including Windows XP-SP1:



Click on the "START" tab > double-right-click on the "CONTROL PANEL" icon when the control panel opens. If there's lots of icons, you are in the correct screen viewing setting – if you have only six or so categories, change the setting on the left panel to "CLASSIC VIEW. Now look for the "SYSTEM" icon, then double-right-click on the SYSTEM icon and wait a few seconds.

A new window will open with a monitor and the Microsoft flag - next to the monitor should be a list, describing the operating system status. If it says Windows XP-SP-1 you need updating. If it says Windows XP-SP2, your okay for a while . . .

If you have Win 98 & ME (Millennium) or Win 2000, it's recommend that you open a "Tech-Savings Account" and put away \$20-30 per month so you can buy a new computer when **Windows Vista** comes out next year. Here's the Microsoft web site that tells the technical specifications of how powerful of a computer you'll need:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getready/capable.msp>

Note: brand names do not matter, 90% of the internal components are the same.

Still, having a "Tech-Savings Account" is a good idea anyway. For one reason or another, from now on you'll always be upgrading and re-investing into your home computing. Consider computing as a utility, like your light bill. Forget dialup modem services, they are a thing of the past; DSL phone services now cost about \$25.00 (Qwest). Plus the websites have become so "content-heavy" with videos & just plain junk, that they take forever to load with dial-up fax modems.

NOTE: If you have XP-SP1, updating your current version SP1 version to SP2 is only \$95, a \$200 value & a \$100+ savings: BeyondTech 303-575-1774

Happy Computing!!

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