

Get the best view of Vista
from the all-time Windows bestseller!

Windows Vista™

FOR DUMMIES®

Here's how to
make Vista behave
and work for you

**A Reference
for the
Rest of Us!®**

FREE eTips at dummies.com®

Andy Rathbone

Bestselling author of all previous
editions of Windows® For Dummies



LiTL Exhibit 2006
MSFT v. LiTL
IPR2024-00456

Windows Vista™ For Dummies

by Andy Rathbone



WILEY

Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Windows Vista™ For Dummies®

Published by

Wiley Publishing, Inc.

111 River St.

Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774

www.wiley.com

Published by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Sections 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, (978) 750-8400, fax (978) 646-8600. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Legal Department, Wiley Publishing, Inc., 10475 Crosspoint Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46256, (317) 572-3447, fax (317) 572-4355, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions>.

Trademarks: Wiley, the Wiley Publishing logo, For Dummies, the Dummies Man logo, A Reference for the Rest of Us!, The Dummies Way, Dummies Daily, The Fun and Easy Way, Dummies.com, and related trade dress are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and other countries, and may not be used without written permission. Windows Vista is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Wiley Publishing, Inc., is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

LIMIT OF LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY: THE PUBLISHER AND THE AUTHOR MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS WORK AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO WARRANTY MAY BE CREATED OR EXTENDED BY SALES OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS. THE ADVICE AND STRATEGIES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR EVERY SITUATION. THIS WORK IS SOLD WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PUBLISHER IS NOT ENGAGED IN RENDERING LEGAL, ACCOUNTING, OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. IF PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED, THE SERVICES OF A COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL PERSON SHOULD BE SOUGHT. NEITHER THE PUBLISHER NOR THE AUTHOR SHALL BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES ARISING HEREFROM. THE FACT THAT AN ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE IS REFERRED TO IN THIS WORK AS A CITATION AND/OR A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF FURTHER INFORMATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE AUTHOR OR THE PUBLISHER ENDORSES THE INFORMATION THE ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE MAY PROVIDE OR RECOMMENDATIONS IT MAY MAKE. FURTHER, READERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INTERNET WEBSITES LISTED IN THIS WORK MAY HAVE CHANGED OR DISAPPEARED BETWEEN WHEN THIS WORK WAS WRITTEN AND WHEN IT IS READ.

For general information on our other products and services, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 800-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002.

For technical support, please visit www.wiley.com/techsupport.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2006934815

ISBN-13: 978-0-471-75421-3

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6

1B/SZ/RR/QW/IN



Windows Vista lists its token bundled themes (and an option to browse for your own); click any of them to see a preview in the Sample window shown in Figure 11-4:

- ✓ **My Current Theme:** If you've somehow messed up Windows Vista's appearance settings — but haven't yet saved them — choose this command to revert to your last saved theme.
- ✓ **Windows Vista:** This setting reverts to the “stock” Windows Vista theme, the one it wore when first installed.
- ✓ **Windows Classic:** Retro users choose this setting to bring back the lean, mean, and lightening-fast look of the venerable Windows 98.
- ✓ **Browse:** Click here to grab a Theme you've saved in a specific folder. (Vista normally saves Themes in the Program Files folder.)

Choose any of the themes, and Windows Vista automatically slips into the new clothes. To preview a listed theme's look, click its name and watch the Sample window.

Instead of choosing from Vista's pre-assembled themes, feel free to make your own by changing Vista's background, colors, the screen saver, and other details. Then save your Theme by clicking Save As, shown in Figure 11-4, and naming your Theme.

✓ Vista's basic tools for creating themes wear thin after awhile. If you're really into creating Windows themes (called *skinning* by aficionados), pick up a third-party program like WindowBlinds (www.windowblinds.net). You can download Themes created by WindowBlinds aficionados at WinCustomize (www.wincustomize.com).



- ✓ Before you begin downloading themes from the Web or e-mail attachments, be sure that you're using an updated antivirus program. Viruses sometimes masquerade as themes.



- ✓ To change themes quickly, right-click your desktop and choose Personalize. When the Control Panel's Personalization area appears, select Theme and choose your new theme.

Changing the screen resolution

One of Vista's many change-it-once-and-forget-about-it options, screen resolution determines how many things Vista can cram onto your monitor at one time. Changing the resolution either shrinks windows to pack more of 'em on-screen, or it enlarges everything at the expense of desktop real estate.

To find your most comfortable resolution — or if a program or game mutters something about changing your *screen resolution* or *video mode* — follow these steps:

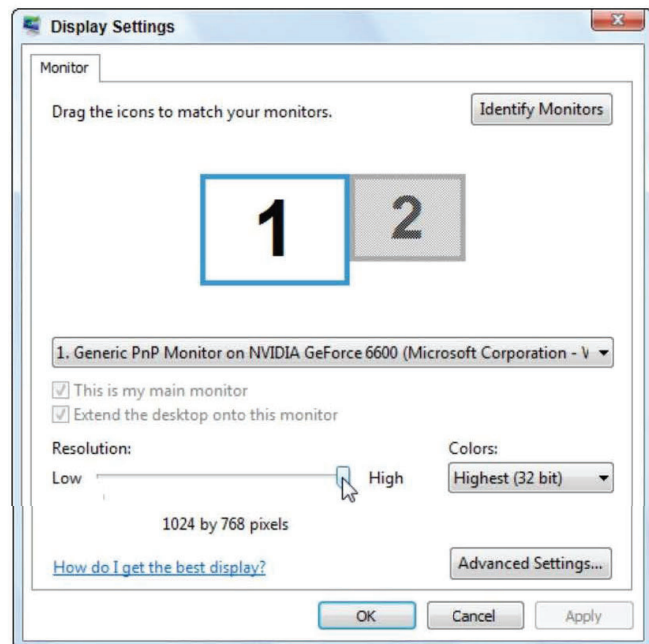
1. Choose Control Panel from the Start menu and choose the Appearance and Personalization category.

The Appearance and Personalization area lists the main ways you can change Vista's appearance.

2. In the Personalization area, choose Adjust Screen Resolution.

The Display Settings dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 11-5.

Figure 11-5: Depending on the screen resolution, Windows can squeeze different amounts of information onto your monitor.



3. Change the number of colors your monitor displays, if desired.

Vista lets you select several settings from the Colors drop-down menu.

To fully experience the rain forest in your digital camera photos, make sure that Windows Vista displays the highest number of colors as possible. Highest, or 32-bit mode, paints your photos with up to 16 million glorious colors. Medium (16-bit mode) displays only up to 65,000 colors, which makes a surprisingly large difference.

4. To change the screen resolution, use your mouse to drag the little bar in the Resolution area.

Watch the little preview screen change as you move the mouse. The more you slide the bar to the right, the larger your monitor grows. Unfortunately, the more information Vista can pack onto your monitor, the smaller that information appears.

There's no right or wrong choice here, but here's a word of advice: Most Web sites won't fit onto your screen well at 640 by 480 pixels. A setting of 800 by 600 is better, and 1,024 by 768, Vista's favorite, will accommodate just about any Web size you visit.

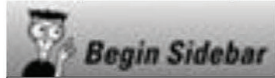
5. View your changes by clicking the Apply button.



When Windows Vista switches to a new resolution, it gives you 15 seconds to click a button approving the change. If the new resolution leaves your monitor blacked out, you won't see the on-screen button. After a few seconds, Windows notices that you didn't click the approval button and reverts to your original resolution.

6. Click OK when you're done tweaking the display.

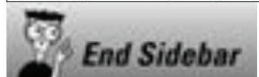
After you've chosen the highest color setting and a comfortable screen resolution, you'll probably never return here. Unless you plug a second monitor into your PC, of course, which I describe in the sidebar.



Doubling your workspace with a second monitor

Blessed with an extra monitor, perhaps a leftover from a deceased PC? Connect it to your PC, place it aside your first monitor, and you've doubled your Windows desktop: Vista stretches your workspace across both monitors. That lets you view the online encyclopedia in one monitor while writing your term paper in the other.

To perform these video gymnastics, your PC needs a video card with two *ports*, and those ports must match your monitor's *connectors* — technical topics all covered in my book *Upgrading and Fixing PCs For Dummies*, published by Wiley Publishing, Inc.



Changing Network and Internet Connections



Vista normally reaches out and touches other PCs and the Internet automatically. Plug an Internet connection into your PC, and Vista quickly starts slurping information from the Web. Plug in another PC, and Vista tries to create a network.

But when Vista can't handle the job by itself, turn to the Control Panel's Network and Internet category: Choose Control Panel from the Start menu and choose the Network and Internet category.

I devote Chapter 14 completely to networking; the Internet gets its due in Chapter 8.

Setting the Date, Time, Language, and Regional Options

Microsoft designed this area mostly for laptopers who frequently travel to different time zones and locations. Otherwise, you touch this information only once — when first setting up your computer. Windows Vista subsequently remembers the time and date, even when your PC's turned off.



To drop by here, choose Control Panel from the Start menu and click the Clock, Language, and Region category. Two sections appear, Date and Time, and Regional and Language Options. Those sections let you perform these tasks:

✓ **Date and Time:** This area is fairly self explanatory. (Clicking your taskbar's clock and choosing Date and Time Settings lets you visit here, as well.)

✓ **Regional and Language Options:** Traveling in Italy? Click this task, and choose Italian from the Current Format menu. Windows switches to that country's currency symbols and date format. While you're there, click the Location tab and choose Italy — or whatever country you're currently visiting.

Bilinguals also visit this area when working on documents that require characters from different languages. (Foreign characters occasionally require installing another font, which I cover in Chapter 7.)

Hardware and Sound



Vista packs oodles of icons into its Hardware and Sound category, shown in Figure 11-6. It's a virtual warehouse of switches that control your PC's *hardware*: its mouse, speakers, keyboard, printer, telephone, scanner, digital camera, game controllers, and, for you graphic artists out there, a digital pen.

You won't spend much time in here, especially coming in through the Control Panel's doors. Most settings appear elsewhere, where a mouse-click will bring you directly to the setting you need.

Whether you arrive at these pages through the Control Panel or a shortcut, this section explains the most popular reasons for visiting here.

Figure 11-6: Vista's Hardware and Sound category brims with settings.

