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Soon Windows 7 will be a thing of past, and will no longer have the pride to sit with the adjective "Latest". Windows 8 is scheduled to come in the battleground by the year end. February 29, 2012, Mobile World Congress at Barcelona is the expected venue where all swaying rumors would come to halt. An announcement from Microsoft has already read out that the public beta or consumer preview is about to hit the market in the same month. According to screenshots from a pre-beta build that were leaked, the product adds support for ARM microprocessors in addition to the previously supported x86 microprocessors from Intel and AMD. Bunch of features like Metro-style interface, Reset and Refresh, Windows to Go, Windows Store, Ribbon intrigued Windows Explorer, Wi-Fi Direct support, NFC support, Native ISO image support, and others are to add comfort and spontaneity to computing.

Fusion of Windows Live SkyDrive is a step towards realizing the cloud computing. Along with the Metro interface it will help you to explore the data and photos stored over the cloud without starting a browser. New Welcome screen, a new packaged application model called AppX based on Silverlight and Open Packaging Conventions are add-ons to accentuate and personalize your desktop.

As the date closes, Windows 8 has become the focal point of the Microsoft Reviews available with leading brands like Techradar, PCWorld, Geek.com, etc., that are indulged in evaluating new breed of software. Specialists are grilling various features in terms of stability, performance and security to come with their verdicts. But with the lucid Metro, Windows To Go and Wi-Fi Direct support the product is expected to entertain the tablets and ultrabook ranges meant for mobile users, which remained dream for the giant. AMD-based Windows tablets may get the attention of the market, as their lower prices will give them a chance to gain greater share of consumers and manufacturers.

Advent of the new OS puts a sort of pressure on Microsoft Support in terms of migration, update or upgrade from the current platforms. However, there is no official confirmation regarding the system configuration for Windows 8, but a ray of hope seems there as the architect of the processor is quite basic. Considering the improvement in graphics and performance, you might have to select advanced graphic card along with compatible drivers to take full advantage. Ideally, machines running on Windows 7 should be able to run Windows 8 as well. Scope of issues still remains a mystery and will be revealed once the version is publically available.

Enterprising efforts are on at Microsoft Help platform to discover effective means to migrate files, data, e-mails and various settings from older to new environment during the upgrade process. Clean installation won't be problematic, provided system compatibility is ascertained. Post-installation problems related to accessibility of older programs and files, driver compatibility, configuration of hardware and software products, etc. can brew up. Members of Microsoft Certified Partner Network are also on homework so as to come better with new OS.

Let's hope for the best, and stay ready to brave the consequences. Taking backup of the hard drive image will be good so as to keep digital valuables intact under the new domain.

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