

Willie's Wonkey Computer Factory

Last week I upgraded a computer for a friend, then changed it from XP to Windows 7 and came across a great feature that allows you to transfer all your old files and settings really easy. It is called 'Windows Easy Transfer Wizard'.

It can transfer Files, Folders, E-Mail settings, Contacts and Messages, along with User Accounts, Internet Settings, Favourites, Pictures, Music, Video and loads of other stuff. The only thing it won't transfer are the programs you have installed (applications), so you will still have to reinstall say Office but all the setting will transfer saving you quite a bit of time working out how you had it set up last time. You can transfer games saves, but again not the actual game.

The transfer can take place by Cable (you have to buy it though!! Called 'Easy Transfer Cable' believe it or not), Network - if you have one, or a Flash Drive or External Hard Drive. I used a drive already on the computer (not the 'C' Drive as that's where Win 7 will go and will wipe it clean before installing itself).

Win 7 comes with Easy Transfer installed, but you have to download the part for the old version of Windows from Microsoft. It will not work if you change from a 32-bit version of Windows to a 64-bit, or vice versa, but will work with XP (with Service Pack 2) and with Vista.

Download the version for the old computer and install, then, as with any 'wizard' it will walk you through the various steps and is really very simple. Be careful to begin with though, as it will offer to transfer EVERYTHING which will result in a very large file, the majority not needed, so untick a few unwanted boxes.

If you are transferring program file settings, it is best to install the program into the new computer first, once that is done, open the wizard in Win 7 (Start - All Programs - Accessories - System Tools - Windows Easy Transfer) and again follow the step by step instructions. Mine took an hour to complete from start to finish but there was a lot of music, photos and e-mails, so for most it should be a lot quicker.

If you would like to read more and see what it looks like with pictures, look here: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/products/features/windows-easy-transfer> There are links to download from there also.

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