



## FROM BEHIND THE SERVICE COUNTER

So here's me, Johnny on the spot, predicating the imminent death of Windows XP albeit 5 years after it was really doomed. I've been hanging on and hanging on but now I can see that it's finally done.

Much to my lament I'm afraid the final days of XP are in sight. The number of error messages I'm experiencing with my Internet Explorer 8.0 has risen dramatically in the last while and they herald the death of that browser. Much of the Vista and Win7 world has moved on to IE9 and even IE10 and left me in the dust.

Too bad because I have been resisting making the move to avoid some of my legacy programs not being compatible with Win7 like my sign cutting software that only works with Corel Draw v10.0

To turn a phrase, this ain't gonna be pretty. There is an XP emulation mode available in Win7 but it's a wee bit flaky. I also use Office 2003 (not a fan of the "new" ribbon menu system in the Office 2007+ versions) and I know it's gonna be gone soon.

And so I shall begin the process of moving to a big bright shiny new version of Win7 for my workstation. Well, Win7 isn't exactly new but Win8 has yet to release the "Blue" version that will reintroduce the "START" button interface. The current Win8 interface has made it the bane of the computer world. Microsoft's effort to transport this newest operating system to the world of tablets and smart phones has made a colossal mess of everything.

I should have this project done by the end of August so stay tuned and I'll let you know how it goes. Wish me luck!

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