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Windows 8, which is available as beta download or more clearly as Windows 8 Consumer Preview from Microsoft, is the buzz of the hour. If you haven't got the time to discover what Microsoft bags in the new avatar then go through this Microsoft review and judge yourself. Windows 8, the most hyped operating system, boasts to have rationalized the simplicity and power both so that end users can do what they want to do and IT departments can deploy, manage and secure infrastructure with the least hassles. Windows 8 highlights include the following:

Great user experience: The new Windows 8 Start screen and fully immersive Metro style apps are the first to grab your eyeballs. With its touch enabled interface, you can swap and move with a style, though it has not staved off traditional keyboard and mouse interfaces. The lightning fast interaction and accessibility give edge to computing. Tablet donning Windows 8 is sure to add your style quotient. Forget the rumors of any software compatibility issues, as Windows 7 productivity and line-of-business applications will go in sync with the new entrant.

Pushes On-the-go computing: Undeniably, Windows 8 will bless the mobile professionals. Enhanced Direct Access, full support of mobile broadband features i.e. 3G and 4G telecommunication and Windows To Go are the features that will scale up the mobile computing.

End-to-end security: Understanding the risk and vulnerabilities associated with on-the-go lifestyle, Microsoft has overhauled old features of data security such as Trusted Boot and BitLocker drive encryption, App-Locker and claim-based access control.

Advancements in virtualization: Microsoft Hyper-V, the virtualization technology which was earlier a part of Windows Server 2008R2 gets entry into the client PC through Windows 8. It will help business and enterprise developers to develop, debug and test multiple configurations of apps and operating systems on a single PC.

Improved management: Integrated Windows PowerShell automation adds values to existing client management infrastructures, as it allows you to write ultra-lightweight UI automation.

Windows 8 Consumer Preview has a self-assessment feature that can read-out your system compatibility so that you don't get into trouble. Minimum configuration as divulged by vendor encompasses processor: 1 gigahertz (GHz), RAM: 1 gigabyte (GB) (32-bit) or 2 GB (64-bit), hard disk space: 16 GB (32-bit) or 20 GB (64-bit) and graphics card: Microsoft DirectX 9 graphics device. To get started with Windows 8, just you have to create an online account, and for the time being it won't ask for any product key.

For any encountered issues, get in touch with Microsoft Support or find your way through the consumer support forum. Experts will be readily resolving related issues in a quick and easy manner, wherever you are, through the remote-access of your machine. They will transfer valuable data and settings (accounts, email, documents, music, pictures, videos, Internet favorites, etc.) from the older to the new machine, install and upgrade applications and drivers and will amend the security settings. Also seek support to setup and configure peripherals, routers and other network components as per demand.

The vendor is expected to upgrade its Microsoft Fix It tool so as to stay sturdy against issues related to Windows 8-based system. Destiny is not much far, let's wait and watch.

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