

The VISTA service pack 1 is expected to ship this month from Microsoft. The word is the download will be approx 50Mb long and will take up to 2 hours to install, so once you set it going, leave it, and go have a game of golf or cricket. By the time you return t should be finished. According to the beta testers the install was painless but frustrating as there was no indication anything was happening. Lets hope that is corrected in the final release We wait with bated breath.

Last month I had the misfortune to try and save the data off a virus infected computer. The drive had to be removed from the original machine as XP would not run and the viruses could not be removed even from a virus recovery CD. The drive was put in a caddy and most of the files were able to be recovered. The unfortunate bit of this was a couple of the users had password protected their folders and even through Linux, access was denied. The message here is, if you value your files; pictures, emails etc., you must backup on a regular basis. These days, with the cost of thumb drives getting cheaper and cheaper it makes good sense. For example the office shop in Lonny this week had 2gb drives for under \$20.00. Next month I'll discuss the backup software incorporated in windows and a couple of free third paty ones.

Happy computing

Colin