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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WINDOWS7 32 AND 64 BIT?

In the context of discussions about 32-bit and 64-bit personal computers the bit format refers to the width of the CPU's register. (huh?) The register is a small amount of storage used by the CPU where the CPU keeps the data it needs to access the quickest computer performance. The bit designation refers to the width of the register, thus a 64-bit register can hold more data than a 32-bit register which in turn holds more than 16-bit and 8-bit registers. The more ample the space in the CPU's register system the more it can handle, especially in terms of utilizing system memory. A CPU with a 32-bit register, for example, has a ceiling of 2^{32} addresses within the register and is thus limited to accessing 4GB of RAM. This may have seemed like an enormous volume of RAM when they were hashing out register sizes 40 years ago but it's a rather inconvenient limit for modern computers. The Nintendo 64 and the PlayStation 2 had 64-bit processors a full 5 years before consumer level 64-bit CPUs and accompanying operating systems even make a faint appearance on the public radar. It is impossible to upgrade a Windows XP to a 64 bit version of Windows 7 but if you have a large enough processor and at least 4 gig of RAM you can move up to the 32 bit version. When shopping for a new computer you will see that the cheaper ones are running on Windows 7 but with only a 32 bit processor. One of the benefits of using a 64 bit computer are the ability to have 16 – 192 gig of ram depending on if you are using the home version or the professional version. Next the efficiency of all the components of your computer will be greatly increased. If you have ever seen the warning that your virtual memory is low that is a cause and effect of the 32 bit and the max allotment of 2 gig of usable memory at a time. Lastly, the 64 bit CPU has double the security when on the Internet. The bottom line here is to bite the bullet and make sure your new computer is running on 64 bit Windows 7 with at least 4 gig of RAM – more is always better but can be added later. Check to see if your motherboard can handle more RAM and what is the max. It is nice to know this before assuming you can indeed add more RAM. Remember that your older printer is configured for a 32 bit computer and may not have drivers available online for a 64 bit system which means you may have to buy a new printer.

WAV VERSUS MP3 MUSIC FILES:

If you own a mp3 player for portable listening you need to know something. This apparatus can hold wav files as well. The CD (wav files) that you took some music from and moved to your mp3 player are very large. A typical wav files is 12,000 megabytes. A mp3 files is one-tenth of that thus your player can hold ten times as many songs if each song is converted to a mp3. There are plenty of free converters online but be careful to use a reliable source for your free software. Try TwoCows.com and Cnet.com.

I MAKE HOUSE CALLS:

I will come to your home or office to help you with almost any predicament including REPAIRS and upgrades. I have an endless amount of patience and knowledge. I offer a 20% discount on my hourly rate for those aged 60 and over. Give me a call at 419-318-9112. References are always available upon request. Don't forget to sign up for my FREE NEWSLETTER at OhComputerTraining.com. Subscribers will get added hints, tips and exciting new web-links.

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