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Microsoft® Windows® Vista™

UNLEASHED

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Microsoft® Windows® Vista™ Unleashed

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About the Author

Paul McFedries is the president of Logophilia Limited, a technical writing company. He has worked with computers in one form or another since 1975 and has used Windows since version 1 was foisted upon an unsuspecting (and underwhelmed) world in the mid-1980s. He is the author of more than 50 computer books that have sold over three million copies worldwide. His recent titles include the Sams Publishing book *Windows Vista Unveiled* and the Que Publishing books *Formulas and Functions with Microsoft Excel 2003*, *Tricks of the Microsoft Office Gurus*, and *Microsoft Access 2003 Forms, Reports, and Queries*. Paul is also the proprietor of Word Spy (www.wordspy.com) a website devoted to tracking new words and phrases as they enter the English language.

Dedication

To my wife (yes!), Karen

Acknowledgments Kudos, Plaudits, and Assorted Pats on the Back

The English essayist Joseph Addison once described an editor as someone who “rides in the whirlwind and directs the storm.” I don’t know if that’s true for editors in some of the more sedate publishing nooks (novels and cookbooks and such), but I think it applies perfectly to the rigors of computer book editing. Why? Well, the computer industry is so fast-paced that any kind of editorial (or authorial) dawdling could mean a book will be obsolete before it even hits the shelves.

The good folks at Sams avoid premature book obsolescence by subjecting each manuscript to a barrage of simultaneous edits from a number of specialists (I call it “gang editing”). So a process that normally might take months is knocked down to a few short weeks. This means you get a book that contains timely and relevant information, and a book that has passed muster with some of the sharpest eyes and inner ears in the business. My name may be the only one that appears on the cover, but tons of people had a big hand in creating what you now hold in your hands. You’ll find a list of all the people who worked on this book near the front, but there are a few I’d like to thank personally:

Loretta Yates: Loretta is the Acquisitions Editor for this book, which means that she “acquired” me to write it. I’m honored that she would choose me for such an important project, and I thank her for the confidence she has shown in my abilities over the years.

Todd Brakke: As Development Editor, it was Todd’s job to work with me in determining the overall structure of the book and to make sure that all the relevant topics were covered in an order that made sense. If we succeeded in this (and I think we did), it’s due in no small part to Todd’s excellent instincts, his keen sense of how a book should flow together, and his own considerable Windows knowledge and skills.

Andy Beaster: Andy is the book’s Project Editor, which means he works long hours making sure the manuscript is ready for the page layout and proofreading process. We’ve worked together before, and I never cease to be amazed at Andy’s professionalism, competence, and good humor. Thanks, Andy, for yet another outstanding effort.

Mike Henry: As Copy Editor, Mike has the often thankless task of cleaning up authors’ slapdash punctuation, rearranging their slipshod sentence structure, and just generally dotting their i’s and crossing their t’s. This requires an unerring eye for detail and the patience of a saint, so I extend a big thank you to Mike: Once again, you’ve made me look good.

Terri Stratton: Terri was the book’s Technical Editor. This means that she verified all my facts and tried out all my techniques to make sure I didn’t steer you in the wrong direction. This requires patience and perseverance in equal amounts, and Terri was more than up to the task.

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