Briefs: Microsoft confirms schedule for Office 2007

March 24 2006

Microsoft confirmed Friday its 2007 Office system won't be released to retail outlets until 2007.

The long-awaited system that includes spreadsheet and Outlook e-mail remains on track for completion this year and will be available to major high-volume commercial customers in the fall. It will, however, miss the 2006 Christmas shopping season.

It then anticipates retail and original equipment manufacturer availability of 2007 Microsoft Office will coincide with similar availability of its Vista operating system in January 2007.

The announcement comes in the same week Microsoft launched a

reorganization of the division responsible for Windows programs.

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Citation: Briefs: Microsoft confirms schedule for Office 2007 (2006, March 24) retrieved 17 April 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2006-03-microsoft-office.html

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