

Microsoft: Windows 7 on track for holiday sales

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(AP) -- Microsoft Corp. says the next version of Windows will go on sale in time for the holiday shopping season.

The software maker published an almost-final version of Windows 7 last week, a sign it would be ready before the official January 2010 deadline.

Windows 7 will replace the much-maligned Vista, which launched too late for the 2006 holiday season.

Microsoft had guaranteed free Vista upgrades to people who bought new XP computers for the holidays. But [Microsoft](#) was criticized when it turned out some of those PCs weren't powerful enough to run a full version of [Vista](#).

Having [Windows 7](#) in time for the holidays may help boost PC sales, which have been stalled by the recession.

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