



جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
United Arab Emirates University

UAEU



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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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Think IT



UITS Achievements

By : Azim K Boblai

United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) is firmly set on its path towards becoming a world class research intensive university with the objective of taking its place among the top 100 universities of the world.

In support of the University visions, University IT Services (UITS) continually strives to improve the services it provides the University community. During these difficult economic times, UITS has become more efficient and reduced costs by implementing new systems and technologies, including **Cloud Computing technology** in 2009.

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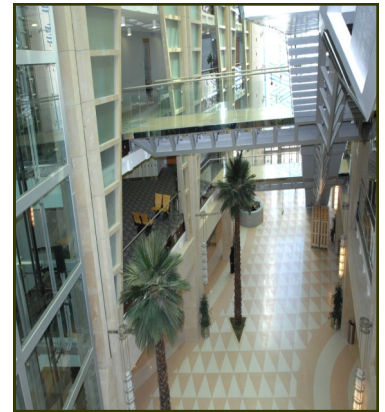
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The New Campus in Maqam allowed the University to review the IT infrastructure and during the deployment of the new network to implement major changes that will bring the following benefits:

- Integrated Infrastructure
- Rapid Access to Information and transparent connectivity to multiple resources.
- Improved interoperability, reliability and manageability.
- Higher ROI (Return on Investment) to the UAEU.
- Better efficiency and energy saving.



Prior to implementation, UAEU UITs assessed its Infrastructure Migration Readiness that consisted of the following steps:

- Prior to any decision making, UAEU UITs stated the objectives for the new IT infrastructure based on the UAE University vision for the next 10 years. UAEU UITs formed a baseline of their present environment, including server hardware, installed software, WAN/LAN topology and security. After that, UAEU assessed the risk and mitigation plans associated with the upgrade process.
- UAEU UITs drafted a comprehensive architecture design that described various recommendations to manage all the processes like backup and recovery, security and administration.
- UAEU UITs validated sizing and performance assumptions, resources involved and took the final decision with the help of all support teams and departments.

The process of transforming the IT infrastructure began several years ago when the New Campus project was started which included many areas and services. UAE University is maintaining robust infrastructure, staying ahead of the demand for new infrastructure services so that basic infrastructure is never an issue or an obstacle to the user's needs.

The following is the list of the main IT projects and their results:

- Implementation of the MPLS WAN structure – this was the first project that changed completely the way the UAEU sites were communicating to the central datacenter and to the Internet. This project improved the communication for all sites and reduced the number of incidents related to network infrastructure.
- Migration from the old e-mail system to an modern Microsoft e-mail system that allows access to e-mail from anywhere using multiple clients.
- Introduction of the “single sign-on” where the access of any application could be done using a single user ID and password.
- Migrating to new and robust Security setup of IT infrastructure and securing the UAEU Network and Systems from Hackers and Spam.



The New Campus deployment added a number of other improvements to the Information and Communication Technology that will position the UAE University to achieve the goal to become one of top universities in the world.

Behind My Desk

By : *Shamma Al Ketbi*



The First job is always a big challenge for any graduate; Beginning from resume writing , job hunting, getting through the interviews and then adapting to the work environment which is completely different from the academic atmosphere. I am an IT student graduate from UAE University in January 2008; I got my first job in University IT Services, which is a very well established IT department.

Working in UITS in particular was a challenge on its own with all IT professionals and experts working there. In the first months, I had difficulty in getting involved and understanding what was expected of me. I felt clueless, useless and sometimes I got confused, as I was easily distracted and not able to multitask. Afraid of trying not to make mistakes was holding me back, however, with the help of my manager and teammates I started learning the procedures and the rules on the organization level in parallel with expanding my technical skills.

Many work values and ethics I learned in the work that I would not learn from reading books. I learned how to work under the stress and commit to the job assigned to, which I found are useful to challenge myself by accomplishing tasks perfectly and try to complete them ahead of time without compromising the quality. I accepted challenges by doing tasks that I knew nothing about and I stopped using excuses like "I don't know how to do this". I learned the value of volunteering by joining the social group within UITS that organizes social events to bring the employees together.



The fears in the first job are very normal. Fresh graduates should unleash their potentials and stand up to the challenges to reach their goals. They should invest their energy and enthusiasm so they get a good result and advance their career. UITS for me was the perfect place to unleash my potential as an IT professional. I am thankful for the opportunity to work in a field related to my study and meeting all the wonderful people there.

My.uaeu on the go!

By : *Buthaina Bu-Humaid*

Mobiles are convenient; you are connected any time any where! That's how the web team went forward with implementing a mobile interface for my.uaeu.ac.ae portal.



Same website address, same credentials and UAEU students, staff and faculty members can get fast and easy access to many useful information like Student Grades, Attendance, Pay Stub, Schedule as well as other information.

This mobile interface is expected to grow as more services and information will be provided to it soon, so stay tuned 😊



Explore Windows 7...

By : Jamila Al Ameri

Windows 7 Simplifies everyday

Home Group:

Takes the headache out of sharing files and printers on a home network

Jump Lists:

Speedy access to your favorite pictures, songs, websites, and documents.

Snap :

A quick (and fun!) new way to resize and compare windows on your desktop.

Windows Live Essentials:

7 great programs, 1 free download. Mail, Movie Maker, Photo Gallery, and more.

Windows Search:

Find virtually anything on your PC, instantly.

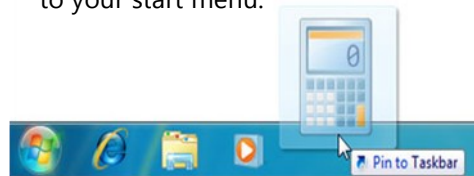
Windows Taskbar:

Better thumbnail previews, easier-to-see icons, and more ways to customize.

UITS is under the progress of deploying windows 7 within UAE University environment, currently we are examining the software compatibility and the migration from windows XP to Windows 7, and very shortly Windows 7 will be in operating condition within UAE University.

Windows 7 is a much improved and user friendly operating system launched by Microsoft in November 2009. It has a lot of nice and improved features, please have an overview of it:

- A lot of us have some programs and files that been used frequently. So it will be easier for us to keep them handy all the time. With Windows 7, you can **pin** your favorite programs to your start menu.



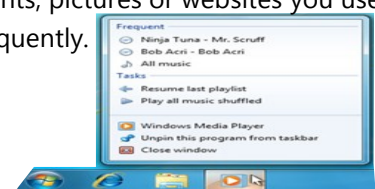
How: Drag your favorite programs icons in start menu to the **taskbar** or **right-click** the icon, choose **Pin to Taskbar** and it will stay there till you unpin it.

- You want to look right through open windows to see the icons, gadgets, and anything else on your desktop?



How: Point to the **Show desktop** button at the end of the taskbar. The open windows fade from view, revealing the desktop. To make the windows reappear, move the pointer away from the **Show desktop** button.

- The taskbar gives you a quick way to find the programs and files you've got open. With Windows 7, it is easier to find what you need. **Jump Lists** take you right to the documents, pictures or websites you use frequently.



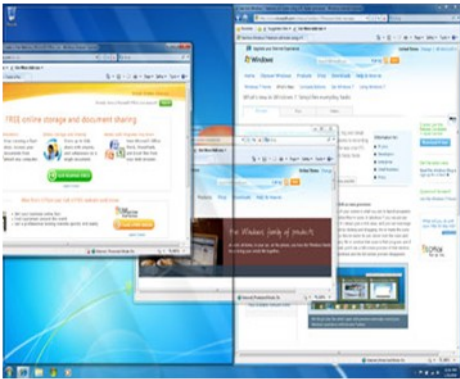
How: **right-click** a program icon on the taskbar. You can also see Jump Lists for the programs on your Start menu and that by **click** on the **arrow** next to the

- You have multi opened windows and you want to focus on one window?



How: For the window you want to keep open, **drag** (or **shake**) the **title bar** back and forth quickly. To restore the minimized windows, shake the open window again.

- This feature can be especially helpful when comparing two documents or when moving files from one place to another.



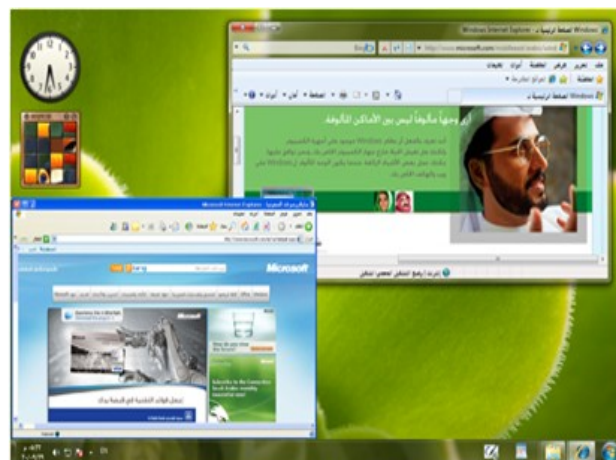
How: Drag the title bar of a window to the left or right side of the screen until an outline of the expanded window appears. Release the mouse to expand the window. Repeat the previous steps with another window to arrange the windows side by side. To return the window to its original size, drag the title bar away from the top of the desktop and then release.

Don't leave programs behind

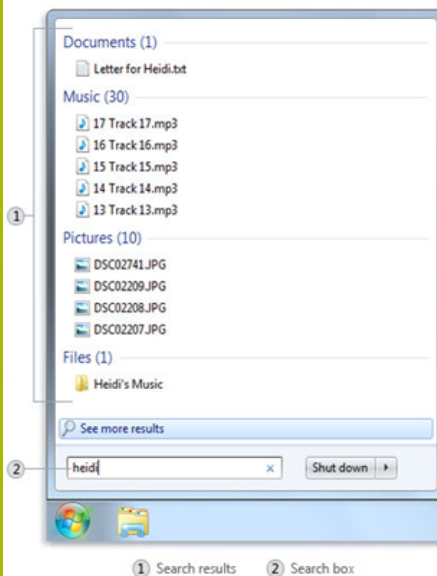
running many windows productivity programs in **Windows XP Mode**. The new Windows XP Mode lets you run older Windows XP business software right on your Windows 7 desktop.


Windows XP Mode comes as a separate download drive and works only with Windows 7 Professional and Ultimate. Windows XP Mode also requires virtualization software such as Windows Virtual PC.

Both are available free on the Microsoft website.



- Search to find specific file, program or email in few seconds.



How: Click the **Start** button , and then type a word or part of a word in the search box. As you type, items that match your text will appear on the Start menu. The search results are based on text in the file name, text in the file, tags, and other file properties.

Windows 7 works the way you want....

Full 64-bit support:

Windows 7 makes the most of powerful 64-bit PCs, the new desktop standard.

More Personal:

Redecorate your desktop with fun new themes, slide shows, or handy gadgets.

Performance improvements:

Designed to sleep and resume quicker, be less memory hungry, and spot USB devices faster.

Windows 7 Makes New Things Possible

Play To:

Play your media on other PCs, stereos, or TVs around the house

Remote Media

Streaming: Enjoy music and video on your home PC, even when you're not at home.

Windows Touch:

Pair Windows 7 with a touch screen and you won't always need a keyboard or mouse.

Explore Office 2010

By Farrukh Fayyaz



UITS is under the progress of deploying Office 2010 within UAE University environment, currently we are examining the migration from Office 2007 to Office 2010, and very shortly Office 2010 will be in operating condition within UAE University. Office 2010 has introduced new and advance features which were really not in previous Microsoft Office versions. Have a look on some of features in the article:

Office 2010 with further enhancements

Inserting & Editing Videos:

Now it's easy to insert videos in PowerPoint 2010 and edit as per requirement.

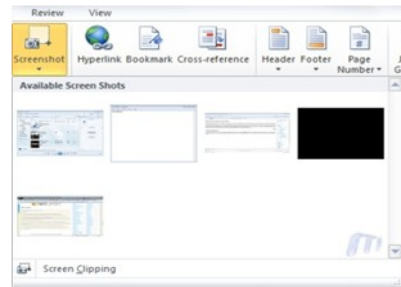
Save File Notification:

When you close an unsaved file **office 2010** now lets you know that it has auto-saved a draft temporarily. It really helps to recover any file which unintentionally didn't save.

Jump Lists in Outlook 2010:

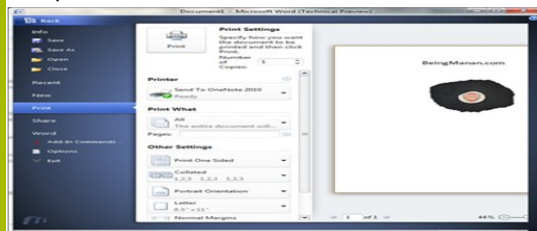
Outlook 2010 now makes the best use of Windows 7's Jump list feature for quick access.

- A handy addition. Now Word & PowerPoint 2010 has the '**Screenshot**' feature.

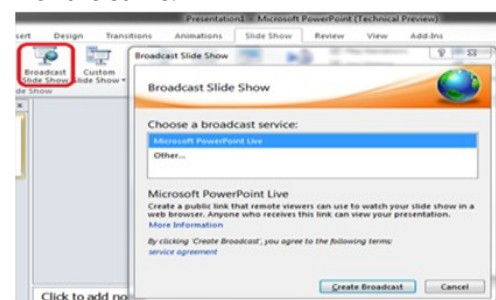


How: Under '**Insert**' tab, you can find **Screenshot** option. The useful part is that it caches screen shots of the currently open windows for one-click insert. At the same time also gives you the marquee select option.

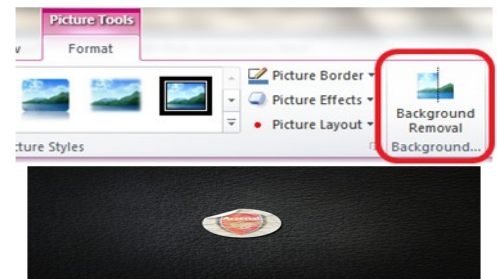
- Clicking the print button, avoids you to going through print wizard, you can select all your print options from here & hit the print button



- Now in PowerPoint 2010, we can **broadcast presentations** by sending the Intended viewer a URL, this works along with Office Live Workspaces & you need an account of the same.



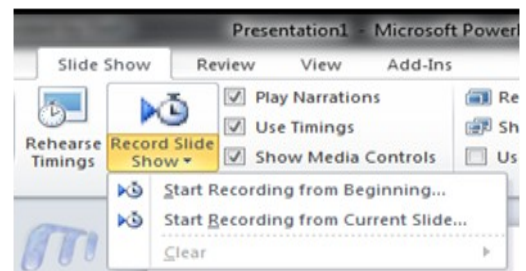
- A neat addition to picture properties is '**Background Removal**'. We can completely remove the background as well as can keep minimum surrounding of image. This feature really overcomes the use of Photoshop. To show the Power of this tool, here is an image that inserted into a Word 2010 document:



How: use **Format Tab** and click background Removal. The result will be as image shown in bellow figure.



- Record slideshow as **Video**, This feature just introduced in PowerPoint 2010, now you can record your presentations as video and can share with others very easily



The Photo Book, memories in the shelf

By : Fatima Al Jaber

All of us have the passion of photography art and the manipulation with the images in professional or creative ways. In particular, with the availability of digital cameras or cameras in mobile phone, and wishing to retain the photos for the longest possible period of time, especially if they bear a fond memory or an important event or feeling captured in that moment.

Many companies provide their free software, which authorizing the person to publish a photo book, or give a chance to create his/ her art work, photo collection, paintings, or a story with

These software had a specific features or limited tools according to company's price list. The book can be publishing in different size (**Square, Portrait, Landscape, Pocket, and Trade**) or as a custom calendar. Most of these companies offer you to share your photo book or even sell it; and some of them give prizes to those with high votes rates of the most beautiful photo books. The prices range between US\$ 9 to US\$100+delivery fee +additional services.

The best top 5 sites for photo book publisher in design, service and prices

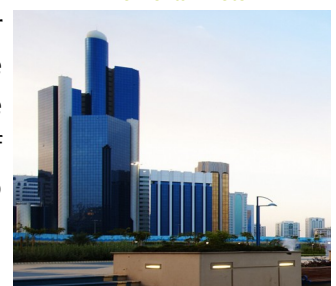
- 1 My publisher: <http://mypublisher.com>
- 2 Mix book: <http://www.mixbook.com/>
- 3 Picaboo: <http://picaboo.com/>
- 4 Photography book: <http://photographybooknow.blurb.com>
- 5 Asuka book: <http://asukabook.com/>

Now here are the best tips to take great pictures:

- The right distance to the right position:** make sure that the distance between you and your model or picture subject is suitable for the photo theme. And get down to your object or model level, by holding the camera at the model eye level to capture the power, also to capture the details and decrease the photo mistakes. And to avoid the red eye effects make the model to look away from the lens or simply take the photo at side angle.
- Use flash outdoor and know its range:** to avoid the mass shadows in your photo outdoor, make sure that your subject to be in the right position according to the sunlight and your camera plus use the cloudy day feature in your camera with the flash feature to minimize the effect of the sunlight shadows at your subject,
- Take some vertical pictures:** some subjects specially landscape or people portrait prefer to be taken in vertical way to give concentrate to the photos and its impacts in the viewers. And to capture a subject in long distance, try to take it in middle or in angle against sunlight to control the impact of the shadows and create an atmosphere of intimacy, and if you want to take a close shoot use your camera macro with angle to give the effect composition and detail of your subject.



Horizontal Photo



Vertical Photo

Toward Stress-Free Work Environment

By : Mariam Al Ketbi



Recalling the excited and enjoyable faces after each social event and activity held by UITS social group, just proves the importance of having such committee in every department. The significance of providing the space in which employees have the chance to have good time gathering has so many advantages. Besides the messages the social group ensures to deliver in each event and activity, it is worth to mention the substance of such activities for ice-breaking and giving the employees stress-free day.

In asking the UITS employees' opinions about the social activities, Nick Choban, UITS CIO, said. *"I have so many positive feelings and emotions when it comes to us getting together for such activities and even shy people (like me) can have fun . There is no other division at the University where people come together like we do for such fun and interesting interactions where everyone is equally participating . I want to thank the Social Group and all the people of the department for making the time we spend together some of the best times I've had at work, especially here in UAE. It's so enjoyable to laugh and be a part of such a great group of people. I look forward to many more years of these events! "*

Buthaina Bu-Hmaid, the social group president, said about employees reactions, *"Event organizers make sure to ask UITS members about their reaction and how they felt after each event. I'm proud to say that we are getting lots of feedback and suggestions which means UITS members are touched by these events and they really are interested in attending them and even more.. enhancing them"*

To conclude, with the continuing support of the management and the spirits of the social group committee, UITS employees will always have the exit for the work stress and loads.



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