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Vista on the Horizon for Installation Tool Makers

Single InstallAware setup does all Windows; InstallShield checks for Vista readiness
By Jennifer deJong

July 1, 2006 — **Two makers of software installation tools have readied new versions of their software, in preparation for the release of Microsoft's Vista.**

San Francisco-based InstallAware announced version 6.0 of its software of the same name, and Santa Clara-based Macrovision announced InstallShield 12. Both new tools began shipping in June.

Both are designed to help ISVs and enterprise teams that prepare software for deployment take advantage of Windows Installer, without having to master the intricacies of its proprietary database. "App developers have better things to do with their time," said Macrovision director of global product marketing Bob Corrigan.

InstallShield 12 supports Vista features, integrating neatly with the way the forthcoming operating system handles access control, ensuring that users are asked to authenticate themselves only once, he said. InstallShield, which also supports all of the previous versions of Windows, takes advantage of Vista's ability to minimize the need to reboot after installation.

Microsoft released beta 2 of Windows Vista in early June; the final version is expected next year.

Also new to InstallShield 12, which starts at US$1,499 per developer, is the ability to help teams determine whether they are ready for Vista from an installation perspective, said Corrigan. The software does that by running quality metrics against an installation, once it has been built. Metrics might include checking whether all executable files have been digitally signed, or making sure no custom columns have been added to the standard MSI table, said Corrigan, offering examples.

Single Setup Package

New to InstallAware 6, which starts at US$199 per user, is the ability to create a single installer setup package for the 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Windows. The previous version of InstallAware required separate packages to do that, said the company's vice president of marketing, Jeremy Garrett.

The update supports Vista (as well as all previous versions of Windows). In addition, 6.0 supports Microsoft .NET 2.0, Microsoft SQL Server Express 2005 Service Pack 1 and Driver Installation Frameworks 2.01.

InstallAware 6.0 also makes it easier to manage updates to applications such as Microsoft Word. It checks for updates automatically and enables installation with a single click, said Garrett.

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