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RunAs Radio is a weekly Internet Audio Talk Show for IT Professionals working with Microsoft products. The full range of IT topics is covered from a Microsoft-centric viewpoint.



Greg
Hughes

Text Transcript of Show #089
(Transcription services provided by [PWOP Productions](#))



**Mark Minasi Talks Windows (7 and Otherwise)!
December 24, 2008**



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Brandon Wenn: From runasradio.com, you're listening to RunAs Radio, the Internet audio talk show for IT professionals with Richard Campbell and Greg Hughes. This is Brandon Wenn, announcing show #89, with guest Mark Minasi, recorded Monday, November 24, 2008. RunAs Radio is produced each week by PWOP Productions, providing professional media and podcasting services online at pwop.com.

Richard Campbell: Hey, this is Richard Campbell from RunAs Radio. I'm here at DevConnection. This maybe sort of the IT Connections side of DevConnection in Windows.

Mark Minasi: Next are those Dev waves.

Richard Campbell: I'm not going to get the regular intro out of this, am I Mark? There's just no way.

Mark Minasi: I'm sorry.

Greg Hughes: Just glad somebody else...

Richard Campbell: Can we restraint the guest please.

Greg Hughes: Okay.

Richard Campbell: Greg, how are you doing?

Greg Hughes: Good. How are you?

Richard Campbell: I'm fine. You flew in last night, you're flying out tonight.

Greg Hughes: And boy, are my arms tired?

Richard Campbell: Hey boy, your arms are tired. Okay, that's as good as you got. I want to go back to Mark.

Mark Minasi: Everybody, just stop listening to this broadcast.

Richard Campbell: I've got Mark Minasi in the room. Welcome, sir!

Mark Minasi: We have spanned continents together in the last weekend.

Richard Campbell: We have spanned continents. We saw you last week in Barcelona.

Greg Hughes: We were all in Spain last week...

Mark Minasi: In Barcelona.

Greg Hughes: And we are in Vegas now.

Richard Campbell: You didn't stop at TechEd Beijing like Reilly did, right.

Mark Minasi: I touched base at Virginia Beach which is where I call my legal residence. Actually my real residence is Road 12 on the exit route if I can get it.

Richard Campbell: That's it, yeah, and you see changes every flight. What did you do? Laundry? And then flew out again?

Mark Minasi: You know, that's exactly it.

Richard Campbell: Exactly what I do.

Mark Minasi: We got in, we slept or trying to sleep late. Vegas is not good for that here because, you know, first of all the air pressure we're almost a mile high.

Richard Campbell: Yup.

Mark Minasi: And the air pressure is low and there's no water in the air so I will wake up in the middle of the night like I'm on Mars. There's no air pressure, there's no -- I'm going to die.

Richard Campbell: I'm dying.

Mark Minasi: Just going to die.

Greg Hughes: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: And after that and the court of Vodka, you drank the night before too.

Mark Minasi: I have to. Actually, I behave myself better here because...

Richard Campbell: Because you're already suffering.

Mark Minasi: Something we don't know who live at sea level.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: The further height you go, the easier it is to get tanked.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: Like the magazine I write for -- Windows IT Pro magazine which everyone should listen to. That's Windows IT Pro Tech Con.



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Richard Campbell: Can we read it? Listening to magazines seems kind of boring. I'm just saying.

Mark Minasi: You know, we have occasional audio. I keep trying to convince them to let me speak my columns and do them as podcast, this sort of thing.

Richard Campbell: So the sarcasm comes through.

Greg Hughes: That would be good.

Mark Minasi: I think we call it irony first of all...

Richard Campbell: Okay.

Mark Minasi: And insight, but at that magazine we used to do this editorial conferences where we all get together for, you know, that was back when IT had money.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Mark Minasi: And one time it took us to Estes Park which I think is like about...

Greg Hughes: Colorado.

Mark Minasi: I'm looking at Aimee. How many feet? 9,000 feet.

Greg Hughes: Pretty high.

Mark Minasi: Then they fed his uncle just to see what would happen to the people from sea level. It's a whole lot of fun, you know, because the boulder incident happened and they live at 5,000.

Richard Campbell: They're used to it.

Mark Minasi: They're sort of ready for that sort of thing.

Richard Campbell: That was hilarious.

Mark Minasi: That was great fun. So yeah, it's a great place to stay up all the time. I've been doing it for days now so if I lose my train in a sentence, then we'll get to start it again.

Richard Campbell: What have you been talking about here?

Mark Minasi: What did I do? Stuff in the past I'm not as good as stuff in the future because the past has happened...

Greg Hughes: And it can be proven.

Mark Minasi: Let me ask my iPhone. Oh, I did a keynote. I was going to do a keynote on like Server 2008, how did they do this...

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: And those did pretty well because honestly my keynotes are what's new in Windows.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Mark Minasi: But on a time like this I'm screwed because they ship Server 2008, and in theory we're not going to have Windows 7.0 in like 2012 which means I'm dancing for the next three years for good keynote father. If Microsoft has done something really stupid, there's not much to talk about.

Richard Campbell: But it sounds like 7.0 is coming sooner.

Greg Hughes: Oh yeah.

Mark Minasi: It was actually stunning because we were in Barcelona and I had looked -- I was there to speak and I looked at the schedule because I like to take sessions while I'm there to learn stuff...

Richard Campbell: Yeah, yeah.

Mark Minasi: And it was like stuff I knew, they weren't bad sessions, just stuff I knew and they've been hiding their real schedule from us because the Windows 7.0 stuff was there and they couldn't talk about it.

Richard Campbell: They didn't want to let anything leak.

Mark Minasi: Exactly and so I looked two weeks beforehand and I got to Barcelona and I looked at the schedule bulletin and like holy crap, there's always Windows 7.0 stuff so I spent about a day and a half sitting with Windows 7.0 stuff, scripting down as much as I could and playing around with my old copy of it and so I got in and again no sleep because of jet lag. The night before my talk I got up like at 1:00 and I just wrote for the next few hours.

Richard Campbell: You were inspired.

Mark Minasi: I went straight downstairs and I did it and there weren't as many jokes as normally it would be because I wasn't on my game but I think I got a lot of information out for those people who were kind enough to join me at 8:00 a.m...



Richard Campbell: Oh man.

Mark Minasi: On a Tuesday morning. I think it was kind of worthwhile.

Richard Campbell: So what do you love about Windows 7.0?

Mark Minasi: I think Windows 7.0 should be Windows 7.0 subtitle: We were just kidding about Vista. What Microsoft did that I think was a big, big mistake was, first of all let's clarify I like Vista. I'm sorry I am the only one who likes it.

Richard Campbell: I'm okay, I'm with you.

Greg Hughes: I like it too.

Mark Minasi: I get emails from people saying, "You know, I've been reading your books for 20 years. I used to like you but you like Vista so I don't like you anymore."

Richard Campbell: There must be something wrong with -- you sold out to the man.

Mark Minasi: Exactly, exactly.

Greg Hughes: That's really the reason I don't write books because the hate mail is just...

Richard Campbell: It's too hard.

Mark Minasi: I just figured, you know, if we're going to pick on Microsoft about stuff a stopped clock is right twice a day so at some point they...

Richard Campbell: Nice.

Mark Minasi: So here's the thing. Maybe I have too long of a memory but I remember in October 25, 2001 when XP came out that there was a deafening yawn.

Richard Campbell: Oh yeah.

Mark Minasi: It was sort of like okay, 2000 have come out, what, 18 months beforehand...

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: A lot of folks worked still on 2000 Professional and you open it up and you say, oh, look, Windows 2000 with the Fisher Price interface.

Richard Campbell: Yes, that's exactly what they said, the playschool version with a playschool UI on it.

Mark Minasi: And honestly I normally do seminars, I'll do a two-day seminar, I find that's a sweetspot, about how to technically support server desktop or whatever. I didn't watch my XP class for 18 months after XP because no one was using it.

Richard Campbell: Nobody cared.

Mark Minasi: Which is why I'm astounded that Vista shipped, was it February something of '06 or '07...

Richard Campbell: Well, it was like the enterprise...

Mark Minasi: Well, the RTM is November.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, right, November, but I think the real one was like January or February.

Greg Hughes: Yeah, it shipped January...

Mark Minasi: And they dribbled it out. It was like if you are cool person, you got it November. If you're an enterprise, you get it December 15 ...

Greg Hughes: That's right but only licensed team got it first and then, yeah, that was...

Richard Campbell: I always thought the pressure there was the volume licensing really because all those things have five-year terms on them and November 2006 was five years.

Mark Minasi: That's correct. I'm not sure that there was wisdom, but I mean the big thing was that people were saying it's so slow and there is no driver. I'm like can you guys just join the game because, I mean, NT 4.0 was pretty slow. In 1996, in July of '96 they came out of with the RTM and it just kind of grew into its hardware and in 2002...

Richard Campbell: 2000 was such a jump for NT4.0 and we had driver problems, we performance problems...

Mark Minasi: We had just gotten over Y2K.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: And a big thing happened because we're used to, in the Windows world, big revolutions every 18 months and all of a sudden everybody kind of held their breaths for four years for a lot of reasons and so we IT guys have been saying I need no hardware, I need no hardware, no to software every 18 months. You say, oh, IT guys you must have it. We did the lock down for Y2K and all of sudden the boss looked around and said well first of all, no bridges fell down.



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Richard Campbell: Yeah, nobody died.

Mark Minasi: Nobody died, that's what astounded me...

Richard Campbell: It astounded you that nobody died or it astounded you that managers noticed?

Mark Minasi: I wrote a book about the software industry called the Software Conspiracy, basically why software companies are making bad crap and what could a few more and what you could do about it.

Richard Campbell: I remember.

Mark Minasi: And it came out in the fall of 1999 just before Y2K and so I got a lot of radio station and TV stuff that I did for the next few months. In December of 1999, I was on a radio station and television station every single day because they needed -- okay, you don't live near where I live where we have hurricanes and so when the hurricanes show up there is always a hurricane guy so it's like nightly news doesn't have just two people. There's this hurricane guy that go every like five minutes on the air. I was the Y2K hurricane guy on New Year's Eve of 2000...

Richard Campbell: Every five minutes he's talking about what part of the world is dying.

Mark Minasi: It was like every 20 minutes I would come on and when most people were spending that most important New Years, I was getting a little sleep because I was going to be at the TV session at 4:00 a.m.

Richard Campbell: It was such a non-event.

Mark Minasi: So here was the whole point. The whole point is that in the beginning of December somebody would have me on radio or TV. There was that tinge of fear like please tell us we're going to be okay because it was like we've heard about missiles launching and your house itchy when stuff like this and your refrigerator becomes a microwave and it was sort of like it's going to be okay and I said, you know, we've spent a hundred billion dollars on that, a lot of smart people worked on that for three years. But the last week, it was like this is all just nonsense, there's no big deal.

Richard Campbell: it's a big waste of time; you're just trying to freak us out.

Mark Minasi: You know, it astounded me because it meant that my friends who were all IT people, we IT people kind of hang out with IT people

because no one else understands us unless we have...

Greg Hughes: Because we're scared of everybody else...

Mark Minasi: They fear us because we read their email.

Richard Campbell: Don't say that out loud, what are you doing???

Mark Minasi: So here's perhaps the most important New Year's Eve of my life and my friends and I spent that at work with a mouse in one hand and a plastic cup of nonalcoholic champagne in the other. It's like we scammed you on that one.

Richard Campbell: Oh boy.

Mark Minasi: But I think the other fall out was, so the next thing that happened was no one seems to remember this. March of 2000 we have a text top just text...

Richard Campbell: Destroyed.

Mark Minasi: Nothing happens for a year because everyone says, oh, it's a little adjustment.

Greg Hughes: Yup.

Mark Minasi: And it was only March of 2001 when people said that's not an adjustment. That's when the real "dot bomb" stuff actually happened.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Greg Hughes: That's right.

Mark Minasi: But I think a lot of it came down to the boss and said, "You know, we didn't upgrade this software for four years and nothing bad happened."

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: "Maybe you guys have been shamming us," and you add that to the fact that honestly the pace of change, and here I'm going to demonstrate the value of the white hair, is that I remember my computers from 1974 on when we used to have revolutions every year, like real revolution.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, totally crap...

Mark Minasi: USB or like...

Richard Campbell: I can't imagine.



Mark Minasi: Do you remember when Tandy announced that they were going to come out with a CD drive for your PC that could burn CD's? That was the most anticipated piece of hardware, you know?

Richard Campbell: It was amazing.

Mark Minasi: Whereas now it's like does anybody out there have a Blue Ray burner on your computers? Those of you who are listening on the internet right now, raise your hands. It looks like none.

Richard Campbell: None.

Mark Minasi: It's like none of them...

Greg Hughes: Everything is silence.

Mark Minasi: Well, 45 gigabytes on one disk. I can put like everything I've ever done on one disk, my whole life in a disk.

Richard Campbell: And then lose it.

Mark Minasi: To a time capsule. I would take it home, dig around...

Richard Campbell: Yeah, but when they dug it up it will be blank.

Greg Hughes: If you start living your life in HD and then it won't do any good anymore.

Mark Minasi: But why not 3D? You know, the future is not what it's supposed to be. In the early '60s, I would read a magazine called Popular Science.

Richard Campbell: You don't read it anymore? It's still out there.

Greg Hughes: Its still there.

Mark Minasi: I don't wear size medium either anymore. The popular size of -- it was future and the future was we were going to have like personal autogyros because that's the kind of helicopter that if everything goes wrong you just kind of whirly bird down, or hovercrafts or jet-pack. Where is my jet-pack!? I mean...?

Greg Hughes: That dude just flew it across the channel.

Mark Minasi: The French guy.

Richard Campbell: That's the crazy French guy with the jet engines on. You can buy the jet-packs now.

Greg Hughes: No, you can't.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, yeah, there are, they're 150 grand.

Mark Minasi: No, there is a basic problem with jet-packs. Here's the problem.

Richard Campbell: They didn't fix -- the human is the problem.

Mark Minasi: The problem is, I'm standing up there so those of you in the internet can see because the timbre of my voice change, and so I've got my little controller things for the jet-pack.

Greg Hughes: In your hand.

Mark Minasi: There is at thing back here that is producing like seven million degrees...

Richard Campbell: Yes.

Mark Minasi: Five inches from my ass.

Greg Hughes: Straight at your...

Richard Campbell: You don't want to break wind, that's an afterburner you don't want.

Mark Minasi: I wasn't even thinking about the fart side effects. I was just thinking -- this is a good way to get a tan, it's like rump roast.

Richard Campbell: I'm telling you there is a company selling these things now. They really are.

Mark Minasi: Oh, I'm sure they're selling it.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: On the internet. I'm sure they're selling it.

Richard Campbell: I mean the thing is, yeah, the two-minute fly span like considering the attention span of most people, you're going to go along, what, I'm out of gas, at 500 feet off the ground.

Mark Minasi: The problem is that it's a device with a bad failure mode.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, few recovery options.

Mark Minasi: Exactly right, you know.

Richard Campbell: You're falling out of the sky going, "did I back up?"



Greg Hughes: I remember taking an old vacuum and trying, you know, like in the back of Boy's Life or whatever the magazine was and they would have the little hovercraft thing where you had a little pad around it and...

Mark Minasi: Did you actually build one of those?

Greg Hughes: Yeah, we tried to build one of those.

Mark Minasi: I've never been handy...

Greg Hughes: It worked great as long as nothing was sitting on it.

Mark Minasi: The basic problem of the hovercraft was that when you're stopped at the stop light with a car, you don't have to do anything. You have to exert energy with the hovercraft goes hmmm and then in front of a hovercraft is a cross breeze since you're basically at zero friction, you know.

Richard Campbell: You get pass by one same line, you're in a different lane.

Greg Hughes: I've been learning to fly lately and then flying one of those little Cessna 150's.

Mark Minasi: Those are cool.

Greg Hughes: It's a lot of fun, it's an under powered you know like, slug...

Mark Minasi: Under powered, my ass, the thing runs at 150 miles an hour!

Greg Hughes: 150? No, it cruises at like a hundred or something.

Mark Minasi: That's on the way down.

Greg Hughes: On the way down, sure, if you point it straight. You fly it at 150 miles an hour, you're probably...

Mark Minasi: How fast do you guys drive in Canada? Hundred miles an hour is like...

Greg Hughes: You see, I don't live in Canada. Everybody thinks I live in Canada.

Richard Campbell: You can blame me.

Mark Minasi: Oh, I assumed that...

Greg Hughes: So we are not talking kilometers. We're talking knots here.

Mark Minasi: Knots.

Richard Campbell: I don't know how we got on this but...

Mark Minasi: We're talking about flying and why it's cool and I've sidetracked you by saying it was fast, he was saying no...

Greg Hughes: You said something about how the wind blows on hovercraft or something like that. No, it knocks it off but I mean if you're flying a 1500 pound or 1000-pound airplane through the air and you get a 3-mile an hour crosswind, it will blow you way the hell over there.

Mark Minasi: It's absolutely true, you know and the one ground loop that you make is the one that convinces you that flying is a bad idea.

Greg Hughes: Yeah, I'm really having a fun time with it though.

Richard Campbell: That will pass.

Greg Hughes: It just started to get fun, it was scarier than hell until about two lessons ago.

Mark Minasi: Even cooler?

Greg Hughes: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: Find some place where you can get an honest to God sail plane -- an honest to God glider because here's the thing. You know, the Schwitzers with the really long wings.

Greg Hughes: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: What's cool about them is so you're flying at this little bubble over you and you know flying is fun. Once when I was a kid, I did it. My dad was a flying instructor.

Greg Hughes: Yeah, but then it's quiet.

Mark Minasi: So freaking noisy in an aircraft.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Mark Minasi: Imagine you just...

Greg Hughes: Yeah, my uncle flies gliders and stuff and took me up once, it's amazing.

Richard Campbell: Tell me there's some way to get us back to Windows 7.0, honestly.

Mark Minasi: Windows 7.0 is starting to sell into our -- no, no, no...



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Richard Campbell: Oh beautiful, okay, there you go. So is Windows 7.0 essentially the XP of Vista?

Mark Minasi: I was starting to answer the question before but...

Richard Campbell: We got sidetracked offtopic.

Mark Minasi: Oh yeah, blame me.

Greg Hughes: I'm trying to figure out what XP of Vista means?

Mark Minasi: Oh, you like the idea.

Richard Campbell: It's deep, I'm telling you.

Mark Minasi: So what happened was Microsoft just needed to relax a bit.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: I mean it just said look, it will come. Now, part of the problem was journalists. Guys like me, I did not do it, but I'm saying among my journalistic *bretheren* and *sisteren*, we have turned a few columns every month and sometimes we run out of stuff to write about and I find that some of my journalistic bretheren and sisteren, are not quite as responsible as I try to be. I think basically what happened was like somebody who writes a column for, I don't know, PC Mag or something like that must – or at CNet or must have heard that their neighbors, plumbers, cousins, hairdresser got Vista, didn't like it and roll back to XP and said a trend, there's a trend we can write about. That sort of became part of the fud and then Apple was brilliant about lying asses off about Vista and that the UAC commercial was a complete and total misrepresentation of UAC but everyone knows it. I missed the day when there was that, bam, that first image that...

Richard Campbell: The problem is I think is that the undereducated, you know, folks that are not knowledgeable about technology that they, you know, ma and pa computer user are definitely afraid of Vista because of all that energy.

Mark Minasi: They know XP.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: If I run the zoo at Microsoft, I would support XP for 20 more years. I would say if you want support beyond 10 years, we didn't plan for it, we're really sorry but if you sign up for MDOP, because they're trying to hook us on this \$5 for desktop crack where you had Kiltamer, no, not Kiltamer...

Richard Campbell: It's another codename

Mark Minasi: No, Kittamer was a pilot in Star Trek.

Richard Campbell: No, it was a codename too but all right, keep going.

Mark Minasi: Okay, Kitame, wait a minute, you know this is a new thing that allows you to deploy virtual desktops and its dead section.

Greg Hughes: Oh yeah.

Mark Minasi: I mean, I would be writing about it, I would be talking about it, I would be doing columns on it except for the fact that the only way that you get to it is through Software Assurance.

Richard Campbell: Oh really.

Mark Minasi: Everything good at Microsoft is acquired in the last three years were Russinovich ...

Greg Hughes: all by Microsoft.

Mark Minasi: SoftGrid, the policy administrator thing for desktop standard, now this new -- what is the name of this, help me guys, it's a mountain in Japan, anyway...

Richard Campbell: Fuji? How many mountains are there in Japan?

Mark Minasi: Well given it's part of a volcanic chain, quite a number...

Richard Campbell: Ah now you're being difficult...

Mark Minasi: So anyway, all this stuff, the only way you can get is that if you sign you for Software Crack which is basically \$5 for Microsoft Desktop Edition and it's wonderful.

Greg Hughes: So if you signed up for Software Crack, the first thing I think you said was Russinovich so you get -- it's actually a pretty good deal for five bucks per desktop...

Mark Minasi: I'm told if you have sufficiently attractive female members then he'll come... no, anyway...

Greg Hughes: Okay.

Mark Minasi: The Winternals side of this organization, those are the guys that are ERD commanders, and that other stuff.



Greg Hughes: Sure.

Mark Minasi: Microsoft bought that when they acquired him, his company and it's sort of like what happened, it's a merger that became a part of MDOP. Anyway, so that stuff is actually pretty cool because the notion is let's say that you had a desktop, it's pretty Vista-ish, but you have one line of business app that requires XP. Well, of course we could refer to a PC on your desktop and we can set up an XP virtual machine. No, what this thing does is that it has the virtual machine can on the Hyper-V server. It shoots across to you in a window all its own, kind of like seamless windows in Citrix or remote application.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Mark Minasi: So it's like you've got all this, what it looks like all these apps that are running in your computer. First of all, they're not. They're running in Hyper-V box down the hall which means somebody else can manage it.

Greg Hughes: But the UI is just place seamlessly on your desktop as it's running on your computer.

Mark Minasi: Making Vista palatable, I think kind of a hobby thing. It just tickles me.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: It's just too darn funny, but honestly, and what I'm saying was that some people like to use interface with XP and I think there's a lot to be said for not screwing with user interfaces.

Richard Campbell: Well, certainly after it's in place for four or five years.

Mark Minasi: I'm saying if you bought a car, a really cool car that had eight buttons across the dashboard for turn right a lot, turn right not so much, etc...

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Mark Minasi: That might be bad.

Richard Campbell: Yeah but there is certainly that UI angle and I have to think how many people their only experience with computer has been XP because it had been so long.

Greg Hughes: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: I feel like we're the anomaly if we've been doing this long enough that -- I remember Mocking Mice, that's the most ridiculous thing on anything, take your hands off the keyboard. Are you out of your mind?

Mark Minasi: That's true, that's true, but then they put those little dots and the G and the H so you knew where to put your fingers back when you...

Richard Campbell: Okay, that's the metrics and everything obviously.

Mark Minasi: For me, when I was in high school, I took typing because I was told that everything in college needs to be typed, but I took math and they said -- I was in Calculus the first day and I said, "Do we have some typists?" And the guy looked at me like I have two heads. Someone asked me to type math homework. I did take this touch typing and I probably have spent all of like three hours of my life on typewriters but when computers came around, I don't remember this but in like '81 and '82, '83 when the PCs were moving in to the office space because Apple were never like businessy enough, to me an office space the fact that IBM was doing it, it was a big thing going on where male managers, male middle aged managers were like I don't type and part of them was they were just retard to doing this on two fingers and they're sitting next to their administrative assistant who invariably in those days was a woman and was called the secretary at that time, and if you stop to think about this this was an amazing part that had changed, that 25 years ago, 26 years ago, if you were a manager, middle manager, and there was a report to be typed, you'd longhand it or something and then quote to your girl, whatever the phrase was that's now unfortunately gone from language, well, typed it up, we had rows and rows and rows of Word processing operators and you just sit there type away a million lines per second on a one Word processor. No one does that anymore.

Richard Campbell: No, everybody type...

Mark Minasi: The side effect of PCs is that this whole job of being a typist just disappeared...

Greg Hughes: Everybody types their own stuff.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, everyone nowadays.

Mark Minasi: So it's funny for a while there. When I was teaching people how to get started with computers, the cool thing in the early '80s was that PCs kind of popped so much and it was one of those overnight inflexion points that they'd hire anybody and I don't know if you recall this but there was a lot of barriers to entry to a lot of white collar jobs if you were



female or black, at least in the United States, but the need for PC support was so great that has dissolved A and B. Guess who the fastest people on the keyboards were? I mean, at that time it was the women who had just come out from college and somebody said take touch typing just in case. We hope we never need it but -- and so I was magic because I was one of the few male consultants that could look at you and type like this and like how do you do that.

Richard Campbell: It's all those little hands on the keyboard.

Greg Hughes: You know, I can't do that.

Mark Minasi: So as a touch typist, you're right until a little bunch came out. I would put my hands on the home wrong and I could type garbage and like 60 words a second.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, perfectly. One key over just like an encoding system.

Mark Minasi: The hardest part was getting the white-out off the screen. That was just...

Richard Campbell: That's a whole half hour just to get that line...

Mark Minasi: No, no, it just bubbled back into my unconscious. I haven't used that joke in about 18 years.

Richard Campbell: Lovely.

Mark Minasi: It's astounding. There are neurons that have been lying asleep for almost two decades.

Richard Campbell: I'm glad we stimulated them. They're probably close to dying actually. We brought them back.

Greg Hughes: Alls I know is what the hell is white-out?

Mark Minasi: That is pretty much astounding. Who did I have a conversation with? Maybe it was Aimee. I was talking recently about -- they had a kid who was like 18 or 20 or something like that and they said that the parents had old movies.

Greg Hughes: Like on film.

Mark Minasi: No, VCR. You can stop and think about it, DVDs have been pretty much currency for at least 15, 20 years.

Richard Campbell: That's very funny.

Greg Hughes: I had a foster kid that I showed a cassette tape to. He had never seen a cassette tape before. CDs were the, you know, a young kid...

Mark Minasi: Did you show him Hammerhead because you had your TRS-80 program that...

Richard Campbell: Oh geez.

Greg Hughes: That reminds me. Remember back in the day, it wasn't even a magazine, it was on newsprint and you would get it, you have page after page after page of Apple-Basic...

Richard Campbell: Oh, I saw that magazine.

Mark Minasi: Creative Computing.

Richard Campbell: I think yeah and soft-basic magazines where you type the program same from the magazine.

Mark Minasi: Like Killabug.

Greg Hughes: Yeah. My friend back when I was a kid, growing up Mark Kevins, his dad had one of the first plastic Apples, the Apple 2 I guess was the -- plain Apple 2 and got that cassette drive. I remember listening to a cassette playing it back on a regular cassette...

Richard Campbell: Oh, painful, painful.

Greg Hughes: How painful it was, but yeah, but we're sitting there and just typing those things and you know one character -- not knowing how to type...

Mark Minasi: Trying something different because for a while there I think it's either creative or Killabug had a bar code and the idea was that they would say this simple thing and a certain typing and it was nonsense, you just swipe it across the bar, it never worked.

Greg Hughes: It never worked well, I remember, because Mark has got one of those too and ended up I think taking it back or something.

Richard Campbell: That stuff was expensive.

Greg Hughes: Those were the days.

Mark Minasi: So in any case, the point is that it would be nice if there was a way for Microsoft to extend XP's life or longer and I wonder if it would be profitable for their customers for them to say something like, okay, we realized that some of you wanted support from XP desktops and I mean people



love XP, for God's sake. Have you ever heard of a company having a bestseller they just stop offering? You know, it would be like McDonald's saying Big Mac's we're done with them. They're so old; It's do something different. It's like Toyota saying we'll just shut out the Camry...

Greg Hughes: We don't need those...

Mark Minasi: Or like Coke changing –

[Laughter]

Richard Campbell: They did that actually.

Mark Minasi: ...this may be the *New Coke* of the operating systems.

Greg Hughes: Well, Coke learned the hard lesson.

Mark Minasi: No, they absolutely did and I hope Microsoft learns it because, well, I want new operating systems because I do like Vista -- I could talk for 16 hours about what I like about Vista. There's annoying stuff about it, sure, but mostly the annoying stuff goes away if you have the right hardware. As you've heard me say before, Lenovo T61p which I love.

Richard Campbell: Its 8 gigs of RAM on that baby, fast hard drive, and...

Mark Minasi: It's just amazing, it's beautiful.

Male Speaker: it's funny when I'm in XP now and I click like command prompt, I don't get a UAC prompt.

Mark Minasi: Is something wrong?

Richard Campbell: Yeah, something is wrong.

Mark Minasi: Amazing how you use that stuff.

Richard Campbell: Not a lot of people worry about Win 3.1 anymore and not a lot of people worry about even NT 4.0 or 2000 anymore. Eventually XP will go away.

Mark Minasi: Do you know that on July 21 of this year, Microsoft finally stopped support for Windows for Workgroups 3.11.

Richard Campbell: Wow.

Mark Minasi: And the reason is, I was like why would this be, it turns out there's a whole bunch of embedded devices that have networking in them

and then it eats just enough NetBEUI or just enough TCP and I guess Microsoft recast Windows for Workgroups 3.11 just enough that this is old devices and they found it so forget about it, we're not supporting it anymore.

Richard Campbell: That's enough.

Mark Minasi: And so the original plan was that Microsoft recognized the business has plateaued. I mean if we only had 2000 Professional and 2000 Server on boxes right now, the world would keep spinning, you know we'd still be making money so it's clear that at this point it's more of an automobile company model in the sense that why would you upgrade to a new automobile if your car isn't actually worn out. Why would you ever stop using your car? The technological reason is like got to have it, got to have it.

Richard Campbell: And there are new features that come along but the core of driving from one place to another has not changed. The far that my car knows the destination and is getting traffic data from XM and it's telling me to change my track and so forth, that's good, that's how I justify my new car oddly enough. So, I mean there are things going on.

Mark Minasi: You have traffic in Canada?

Richard Campbell: Yeah, we too actually.

Mark Minasi: It's like there are many people here.

Richard Campbell: Well, we have one highway so...

Mark Minasi: What is that?

Richard Campbell: We got one highway, Highway One, all the way across the country. It fills up sometimes.

Mark Minasi: They're American tourists, no doubt.

Richard Campbell: Absolutely.

Mark Minasi: You guys just better at the borders. You can keep us out. Let's move along.

Richard Campbell: You're mocking me, aren't you?

Greg Hughes: So you got Windows 7.0 a client, you got Windows Server 7.0 which is now Server 2008 R2 and now we got this and that's the reason...



Richard Campbell: That's really what it's going to do. Windows 7.0 Server is actually 2008 R2.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Mark Minasi: Where that R2 stuff comes from is beyond me.

Richard Campbell: We had an interview with Iain McDonald not long ago who is GM for this whole thing. He loves the R2 thing. He thinks it's great.

Mark Minasi: Okay.

Richard Campbell: I don't want to argue with the guy. He hears me.

Mark Minasi: He is also the guy who in Barcelona said, "So what, we're going to finally get the live migration stuff which is V-Motion." And he says, "I know everybody's taking about it but I've talked to customers and you know, nobody really uses it. I'm like, "Iain, what color is the sky on your planet." He's a nice man, he's very smart, he's a company man.

Greg Hughes: He's a great guy.

Mark Minasi: That's his big deal. He's a cheerleader and a company man and so smart guy but -- I think the original plan was Windows 7.0 will come out in like 2012 giving them four years to come up with cool new technologies, but I think they panicked. I mean, I see this as Microsoft saying, you know, let's just change the conversation. We're sorry about Vista and we'll do something else.

Richard Campbell: Well, then there's this vibe that says, Vista is the new ME. Honestly, I'm with you Mark...

Mark Minasi: I wish I could sell 140 million copies of my books.

Richard Campbell: There you go.

Mark Minasi: That's how many copies...

Richard Campbell: It's unfair but the words are out there.

Greg Hughes: Well, yeah, Windows ME...

Mark Minasi: Isn't it fascinating that Server 2008, which has an identical kernel to Vista, I don't hear people saying to me, oh, it runs too slow, 2008 runs too slow, it's incompatible -- I don't even hear this.

Richard Campbell: Which begs the question is the issue with Vista configuration?

Greg Hughes: Or is it even technical at all?

Mark Minasi: It's not technical. It's perception.

Greg Hughes: This is people's problem, not a technology problem.

Mark Minasi: Part of the people's problem is my dad will be perfectly happy if you never have to buy a new computer ever again. All he does is surf the web, annoy his kids with email, and stuff like that. I mean, he really doesn't need to run halo.

Richard Campbell: My mother wants a new computer because she feels hers is breaking down and so I take the image I took when I built it the first place and put it back and it's like she's got a new computer. She's completely happy.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Richard Campbell: When she says, "Well, how did you do that?" "What happens is, you know, software is like fatty food. Your computer needed an angioplasty."

Mark Minasi: When my dad says, "You know, the XP box is set up pretty quick but now it's kind of slow." I'm tempted to say, "Well, you know dad, when you buy a computer there's only so many dilithium crystals in the power supply and as time goes on, you just have to buy."

Richard Campbell: You're running out of them.

Mark Minasi: Using my powers for evil and not for good though.

Richard Campbell: Sounds like an opportunity to stop. Mark, I don't know that we actually talked about anything in half an hour.

Mark Minasi: You know what; I always enjoy talking about nothing with you.

Richard Campbell: Thank you so much. We'll talk to you next time on RunAs Radio.