Microspeak: Tenet

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In standard English, a *tenet* is a fundamental belief held by a group of people. At Microsoft, the term *tenet* is used as a generalization of what we previously called <u>taxes</u>: Things that everybody has to do in order to be a good software citizen.

While *taxes* are typically very low-level and specific, like supporting <u>roaming user profiles</u> or <u>multiple monitors</u>, *tenets* are broader concepts like *reliability* or *compatibility* or *API design and documentation*.

The word doesn't escape the halls of Microsoft very often. Most of the citations I have are internal, but here's a case where Jon DeVaan let it slip into a keynote address:

> And together we've improved reliability on Vista huge amount. <u>And when you look at the compatibility tenet</u> that we have for Windows 7, all of this work translates immediately to the reliability of Windows 7 on day one.

Occasionally, somebody will confuse the word *tenet* with the superficially-similar *tenant*.

> We still have many bugs marked as *High tenant impact.*

Remember:

- <u>*tenant*</u>: Somebody who is renting from you.
- *tenet*: An important principle or belief.

Bad pun alert: I guess a bug could be high tenant impact if it's a bedbug or lice.

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