

BCRDL Pension Loss Calculator

Use of the Calculator on Windows Vista

The calculator was originally developed before Windows Vista was released so compatibility with Windows Vista was never a development requirement. Despite this although not officially supported the calculator can run successfully on Windows Vista. However you should be aware that some changes that Microsoft have introduced with Windows Vista alter the program's behaviour slightly. So items you may need to consider (although this is not necessarily a comprehensive list):

1. User Account Control (UAC) prompts will be displayed by the installer – you need to allow the installer Administrative privileges to install.
2. The online help file will not work without you installing an update from Microsoft. For some reason Microsoft have decided not to support the traditional Windows Help file format on Windows Vista. There is an update from Microsoft that will allow your older help files to display but Microsoft do not allow anybody to distribute this update with their software – you have to download it from Microsoft's web site. The knowledge base article <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/917607> describes their decision and has links to the downloads that will enable the use of the help file. Alternatively the same information as is found in the help file can be found in the Acrobat PDF documentation provided with the program.
3. Configuration file changes – normally the calculator saves it's configuration settings in an INI file in the application folder (usually C:\Program Files\BCRDL Pension Loss Calculator\BCRDLPC.INI). Under Windows Vista all the folders under Program Files are made Read Only by default. To allow user changes to configuration files to be saved Vista “shadows” any user made alterations to a “Virtual Store” and when the program is run it overlays the changes from the “Virtual Store” on top of the original INI file so the actual run time behaviour appears unaffected. However if you want to make any manual changes to the INI file settings you will need to alter them in the “Virtual Store”. The virtual store is normally found in “Desktop\username\AppData\Local\VirtualStore\Program Files\BCRDL Pension Loss Calculator” where username is the name of the logged on Windows Vista user.
4. Case database changes – similar to the INI file issues above the program normally stores it's case database in the application folder (usually in C:\Program Files\BCRDL Pension Loss Calculator\BCRDLPC.mdb). Again because this location is read only Vista will actually store the data in a “Virtual Store” (in the same location as above). This can have implications for backups of the data and where more than one user logs on to the same computer it could mean each user sees a different set of data. For this reason it is **strongly recommended** that when installing the program on Windows Vista you choose a different location for the “data” databases – one that is not Read Only in Vista.