## Subject: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Apache on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 05:00:00 GMT
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Hey folks!

As some of you may remember, I was a bit stupid in my last computer purchase, but it appears I may be redeemed a bit here. My grandparent's computer just recently died on them, and have decided they will pay the full retail price of my current desktop, so I can go get myself something thats got a bit better specs.

So, since I don't want to waste money again, as I probally won't get an opportunity to recover the money this time, I wanna get some advice from the guys whom I feel probally know the most about computers, lol

Now, since I started University this fall, a laptop has been something that would be exceptionally useful, either for finding something to do online during an exceptionally boring chem lecture, or to look for help online while studying later to figure out what I was "taught" during said lecture.

I'm planning on totally replacing my desktop with the laptop, and have a few specs I'm aiming for:

1) It must be equipped with a 2.0 GHz or faster Core 2 Duo processor

2) It must have at least 1 GB of RAM

3) It must have at least a 256 MB video card

4) It must have at least a 100 GB hard disk

5) It must have wireless networking capabilities

I'd prefer if it had a USB port and a Serial port, and would also prefer a point style cursor instead of the thumbpad. Both would be fine though.

I've got a fairly limited budget, but I will entertain possibilites up to 2000...

I'm currently considering a Dell Inspiron E1505 and a Dell Latitude D820, but haven't done much else for shopping...

Any suggestions?

## Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by icedog90 on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 05:07:08 GMT
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Well, you're talking about at least $2,000 USD there. Just so you know.

It's not too easy to make a mistake with buying a laptop. They are usually the same price everywhere, and they're worth what they're worth. It's different from buying parts and building your own PC. My only real suggestion is staying away from Dell as best you can.

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## Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Apache on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 05:44:21 GMT
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I probally won't be buying brand new from the manufacturer, but buying from one of those sealed in box ebay guys which usually have some manufacturer warrantee left on them. I've found that prices are usually found from just under, to a few hundred bucks over a grand, at least on the two machines I looked at, while both would be approx 2 grand brand new, optioned the way I want.

Is there a specific reason for staying away from Dell, or is it simply a buying from the giant evil corporation like Wal-Mart type taboo?

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## Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Dave Anderson on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 05:46:42 GMT
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Dell has the worst support ever and their computers are way overpriced.

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## Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Goztow on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 08:08:14 GMT
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Do NOT, I repeat, NOT take a Dell laptop.

I would advice you to go for an Acer laptop: I am very pleased of mine.

I can't give you exact parts but you need to look at two things:
- video card
- RAM

Why? The video card can never be replaced and is what will be out of date fastest. So buy a decent one, even though it seems terribly overpriced to you.

RAM: it costs a lot to buy extra laptop-RAM, so you may as well pay enough for it now. I remember buying a 512 MB RAM module for 139 € almost a year ago... Desktop would have cost me something like 30 €?

I personally don't understand why everyone wants to go dual core. Are you planning to do video editing on it or something similar? You need to understand that most games don't even support dual cores yet. It might be better to get one fast core than two medium cores for the same price?

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People might correct me on this, my knowledge of cpu's is pretty limited.

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by icedog90 on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 09:40:16 GMT
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You are wrong.  The Intel Core 2 Duos are faster than any single-core processor at the moment.
Therefore, whether you edit video or you don't, they're still faster.

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Goztow on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 09:47:47 GMT
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icedog90 wrote on Fri, 10 November 2006 10:40You are wrong.  The Intel Core 2 Duos are faster
than any single-core processor at the moment.  Therefore, whether you edit video or you don't,
they're still faster.
But what's the price you pay for it, compared to a good single core?

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by icedog90 on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 09:48:41 GMT
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Usually cheaper.

http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.asp?Item=N82E16819115003

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Goztow on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 09:49:11 GMT
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I stand corrected in that case.

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by icedog90 on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 09:50:44 GMT
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No problem.  Everyone learns something everyday.

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Apache on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 13:24:28 GMT
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Oh, I should mention -- If the computer has an exandable docking station, I can put extra RAM, a good video card, sound card etc into the docking station. There are laptops out there that have 2 GB of RAM, and 512 MB video cards, but they are like 3 - 4 thousand dollar machines...

So, I've got one reccomendation for an Acer machine, I'll look at what they have to offer tonight. Anyone other suggestions of good machines?

I've been out of the computer world loop so long, I have no idea what is a good computer manufacturer, less saying away from HP Compaq, and now MDG....

Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Goztow on Fri, 10 Nov 2006 21:52:08 GMT
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Are you still talking in US dollars?

Make sure the video card is dedicated.

Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by almor999 on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 05:24:01 GMT
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I noticed you are in Canada so newegg is not an option for you unless you have relatives or good friends in the U.S.

One place you might want to look is futureshop.ca a lot of the stuff they carry is overpriced but their laptops are usually not too bad, especially if you pick them up on sale.

How much are you willing to spend?  What size screen do you want?  What exactly are you going to be using the laptop for?

I have a 15.4" laptop but I find it is a bit on the big side for class as there often isn't a lot of room in lectures.  So you may want to look at a 12" or 14".

Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by light on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 06:23:16 GMT
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I have an 11.3" and it's great for lectures.

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## Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Apache on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 06:37:07 GMT
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The computer will be a desktop replacement. Screen size doesn't matter that much, but something that can run a 1024x768, or equivelent widescreen ratio would be nice. Most of the machines I've looked at seem to have between a 14 and 17" monitor.

It will be Primarily used for surfing the net / chatting on MSN, some video editing, and some photo editing. However, I do occasionally play games online with my brother, and I take the laptop camping with me to play DVDs / surf online with a cellular air card.

I've been thinking, and I think that if I go for the docking station, which can accept more RAM, a second video card, TV tuner card, and a spare hard drive along with doing all my hookups, then I can get a lower end machine initially, and while it would be perfectly capable here at home to do everything I want through the docking station, I'd still have a portable machine that could do most everything I'd want away from home. Also, having the hard disk in the docking station (or even external) would mean that if my laptop does get stolen, or wrecked, my data would still be safe at home. I also already have all the hardware mentioned here, less a good video PCI video card. My ATI 9800 just doesn't make the cut anymore.

When I take the machine to school, I only really do basic C++ programming, assignments, looking stuff up online, occasionally some music and chatting on MSN, none of which requires an uber powerful laptop.

Also means that I can upgrade in the future with regard to video cards, RAM etc. A 2.0GHz Core 2 Duo should be a pretty powerful processor for a fairly long time.

I noticed that the Dell Latitude has a docking station that I can do everything I mentioned above with, and can be had relatively cheaply with the only real option being the 2.16GHz Core 2 Duo, and just base model ram, HD etc.

What do you guys think about this idea?

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## Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Jonty on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 09:34:26 GMT
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Dell make good desktops and even better LCDs.
My mother's computer is a Dell Dimension 5000 from a few years ago and I'm immensly satisfied with my shiny new Dell 1907FP 19" LCD display.

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However, I haven't bought an Inspiron before so I wouldn't be able to say how good they are.

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## Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by icedog90 on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 09:54:44 GMT
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Well, I come from the world of building-our-own-PCs and I say that Dell sucks.

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## Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Goztow on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 10:19:54 GMT
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Acer got an extendable guarantee up to 3 years. It costs around 100 € but it could be worth it if you think you'll wreck it.

You could also even extend it to 3 years omnium which was around 150 €, I think. That means that even if you drop it or something, it'll still be guaranteed. Might be nice if you're a camper?

Dell = no customer support. OK, do I need to say that again? Dell = no customer support.

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## Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Jonty on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 10:49:31 GMT
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Goztow wrote on Sat, 11 November 2006 10:19Dell = no customer support. OK, do I need to say that again? Dell = no customer support.
Ah, but everything we've bought from Dell has worked well enough to not need Customer Support. Also, all the computers at both my mother's and father's workplace are Dells.
icedog90 wrote on Sat, 11 November 2006 09:54Well, I come from the world of building-our-own-PCs and I say that Dell sucks.
Oh, I built the main PC myself, quite a good deal in the end. Total cost of PC= £200 from info-tech systems
Total cost of 19" screen= £200 from Dell (Super-duper ultrasharp DVI model)

I also love the Dell style, only the Apple Cinema screens look nicer IMO.

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## Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Goztow on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 12:30:04 GMT
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At my work, we use Dell and we got nothing but trouble with some of those. At times the fans make so much noise, it's as if an airplane is lifting off. I googled the prob and others had it: it's a motherboard problem, so it seems.

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by MexPirate on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 13:40:07 GMT
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I am using my Acer laptop now and performance per $/£ would say they are one of the best brands about.

I would stay well away from apple if you want your laptop to be compatible with anything.

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Demolition man on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 15:12:00 GMT
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Asus FTW

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by JPNOD on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 15:28:31 GMT
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Demolition man wrote on Sat, 11 November 2006 10:12Asus FTW


agreed, the casing of a ASUS feels alot thougher on most series..
Else if you have to spend look up for IBM they make great laptops aswell but its more designed for bussiness then gaming.

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Jonty on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 16:30:48 GMT
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[PAPirate wrote on Sat, 11 November 2006 13:40]I would stay well away from apple if you want your laptop to be compatible with anything.
You can run Windows on new MacBooks now, you know.
In fact, if someone gave me a truckload of money and told me to buy whatever I wanted, I'm buy a Mac Mini, an Apple Cinema screen and a MacBook Pro and then install Windows and Linux on them both to complement the already brilliant MacOS.

Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by icedog90 on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 22:00:11 GMT
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I wasn't saying there was anything wrong with Dell displays.  They are good.  I was talking about their computers and laptops... and their support.

Acer is a good brand from what I've seen.

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Aprime on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 23:56:49 GMT
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Asus makes flimsy shit (I have an Asus laptop, I hate it, I've never owned a piece of hardware this flimsy in the past).

Acer is... OK, I'd still recommend Dell over it (it's like some compromise between Gateway and Dell).

Dell has good technical support in Canada and is overall fine.

Anyone who says that he shouldn't buy a Mac is either retarded or lives in the past.

Don't buy: Cyberpower, Ibuypower.

I'd go for either Dell, HP, Toshiba or Apple.

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by BlueThen on Sat, 11 Nov 2006 23:59:48 GMT
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Eh, I have a friend who has a mac, and almost nothing works on it.

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by Apache on Sun, 12 Nov 2006 02:12:05 GMT
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I've never been a fan of Mac, and will never own one. No reason in specific, just don't like the OS much.

Spent a few hours searching yesterday between various brands, and still haven't found anything that is everything I want, within my price range. Well, I did, a Dell Latitude D620, but from I hear, they have one of the suckiest displays out there.

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I can understand guys who build their own computers, I do the same thing, except with trucks, but sometimes it is just more convenient to simply buy a new one from a dealership than to patch something together using old parts, lol

Any thoughts on the docking station idea?

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Subject: Re: Since I got hosed last time -- Computer advice!
Posted by CarrierII on Sun, 12 Nov 2006 17:28:14 GMT
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ASUS make good mainboards though.

My mum has an Adevent laptop. It's not the best thing in the world, stear clear of Advent.

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