



Tech Central

News and Views

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Refurbished Equipment—A Smart Buy

Why do people buy new IT equipment, when factory-refurbished is available for so much less?

Studies show that people who have purchased a refurbished desktop computer say that they will *never* buy new again. Even manufacturers are so confident in the equipment that they offer the original warranty.

It could be a damaged box, slight defect which is repaired and rigorously tested, or a returned piece of equipment— for what ever reason the refurbished label came about, you can be confident that the equipment has been inspected and serviced then tested and repackaged to meet original product specifications, completely like new.

So, why should you buy refurbished instead of brand new?

Simply, to save big money. Why would you *want* to pay more for the same equipment, with the same warranty? It pays to always check out refurbished IT equipment first, before you buy new.



And on top of that, you can afford that higher dollar computer because as a refurb, it cost less than the new, lesser grade one. Refurbed computers actually have a lower defect rate than new ones; because they are tested before they are sold whereas brand new ones are shipped right out the door.

Refurbs are smart at anytime, but in a constrained economy, they make even more sense. You can give us a call to learn more about our inventory of refurbished equipment.

Wait on Windows 7

This October, Microsoft released Windows 7, a much-improved operating system that should go a long way toward erasing the bad impression left by Vista. So, if you have been holding off buying a new computer, Windows 7 would be an okay excuse to go ahead with your purchase.

BUT—if a new PC is *not* on your horizon, it is our opinion that you shouldn't take the release of Windows 7 as a call to action. We don't recommend running out to buy the software for use on a computer you are planning to keep. The upgrade most likely won't be worth the time or the money, and, you need a minimum of 2 gigs of RAM to run 7, according to Microsoft.

While Windows XP users would have the most to gain in terms of features—here it comes, another “BUT”—upgrading from XP to 7 is *not* easy, requiring reinstallation of all programs, a hunt for files, and potential hardware issues due to the 64-bit operating system.

Current Vista users already have some of the nice features; in fact for daily e-mail and web surfing, there's not much difference. As updates have fixed a lot of Vista's earlier issues, it would be hard to justify the price to upgrade to Windows 7.



Testing has demonstrated some problems with the backup function, with little help on the Microsoft website. Third party backup software was the only reliable solution. Given that regular backups are essential, this definitely needs fixing. Another disappointment was that boot-up time was actually a bit slower, taking slightly longer than with XP or Vista on the same computer.

Our recommendation: WAIT. Wait to get Windows 7 on a new PC purchase; and wait for the glitches to be fixed; let someone else work out the kinks!