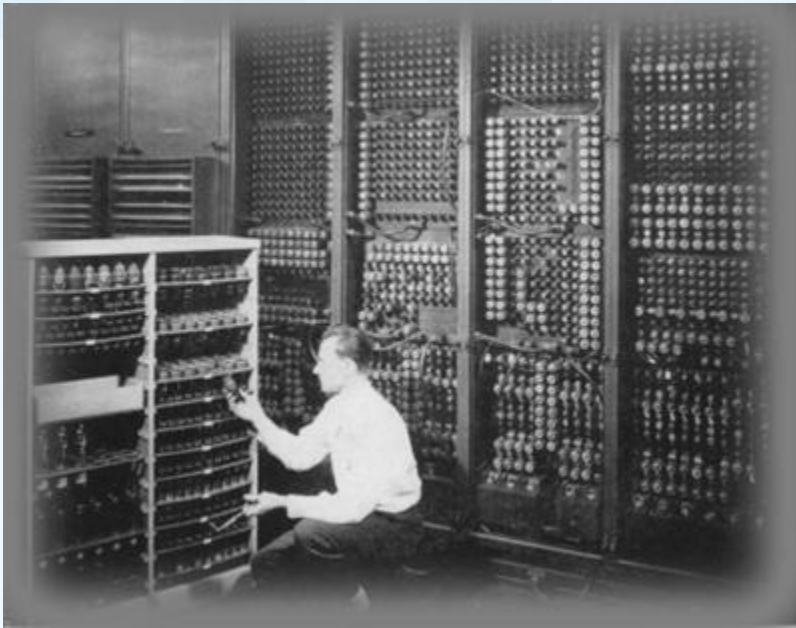


Buying/Upgrading a Computer: What You Need To Know

Garrett Hungerford
Network Administrator



Is it a good idea to upgrade my computer?



According to a recent survey that research firm Gartner conducted with 177 large businesses, the average life span of a desktop **PC is 43 months**, and only **36 months for mobile PCs**. More than a third of respondents said the main reason for replacement of PCs is to improve user productivity, while more than a quarter cited escalating support costs with older machines. More than 20% said new software requirements led to the need for new computing systems.

Information Week, 2005

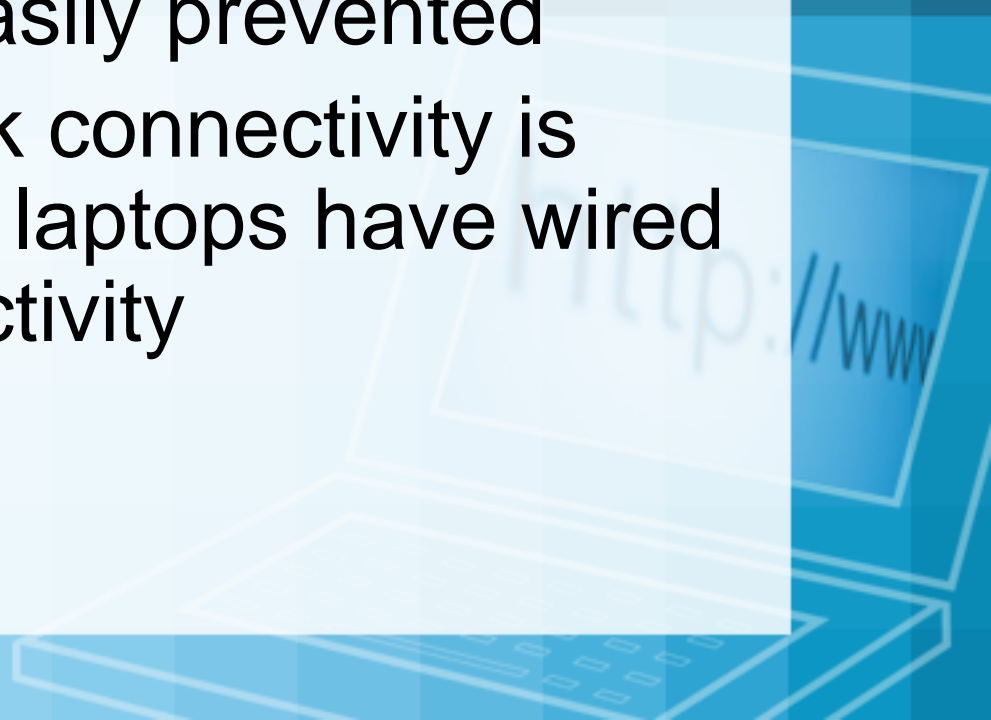
OK... So Let's Go Shopping

First Important Decision:



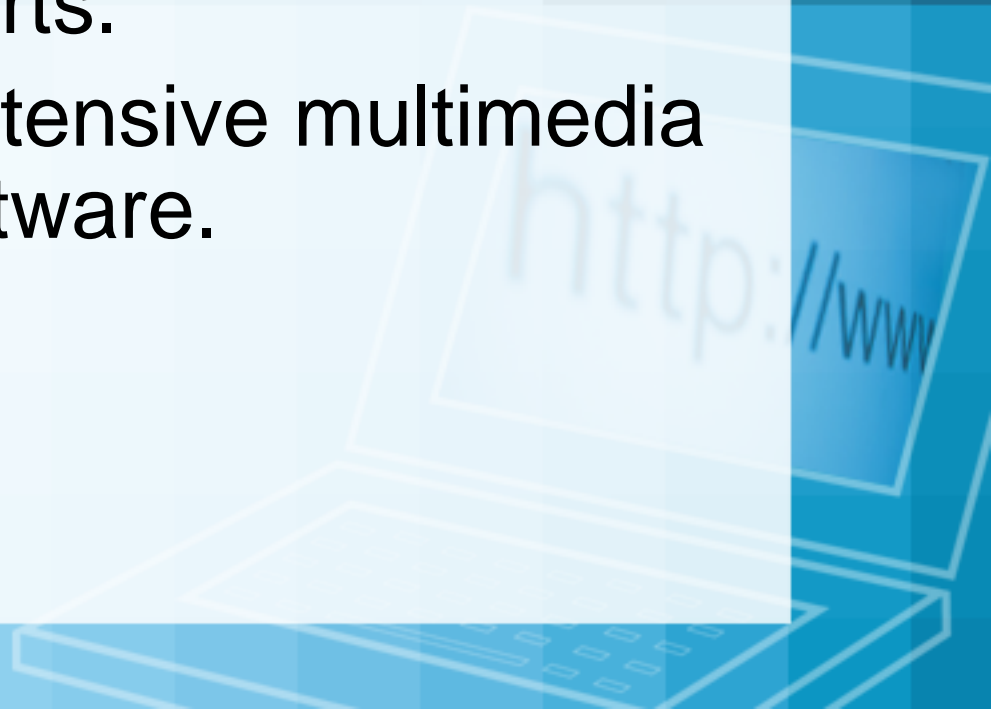
Laptops

- Cost slightly higher, but competitive
- Gives you options for mobility you just don't have with a desktop system
- Security is an issue, but with reasonable care, theft can be easily prevented
- Off the shelf network connectivity is better... virtually all laptops have wired and wireless connectivity

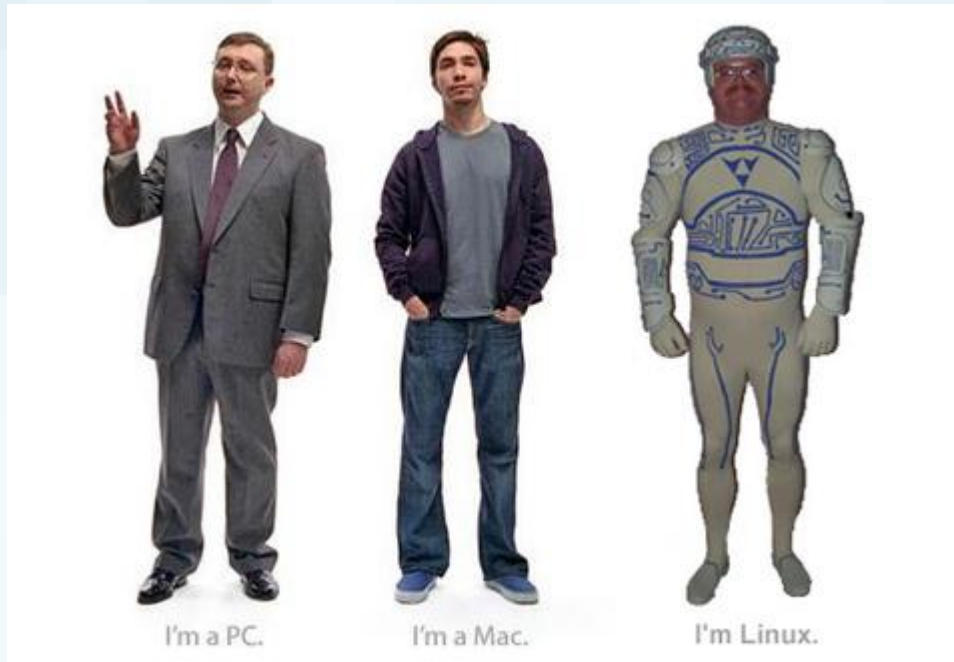


Computers

- Wide range of computer options; price, design, performance.
- Pay a little less for a little more; compared to a laptop.
- Easier to replace parts.
- Better solution for intensive multimedia use or graphical software.

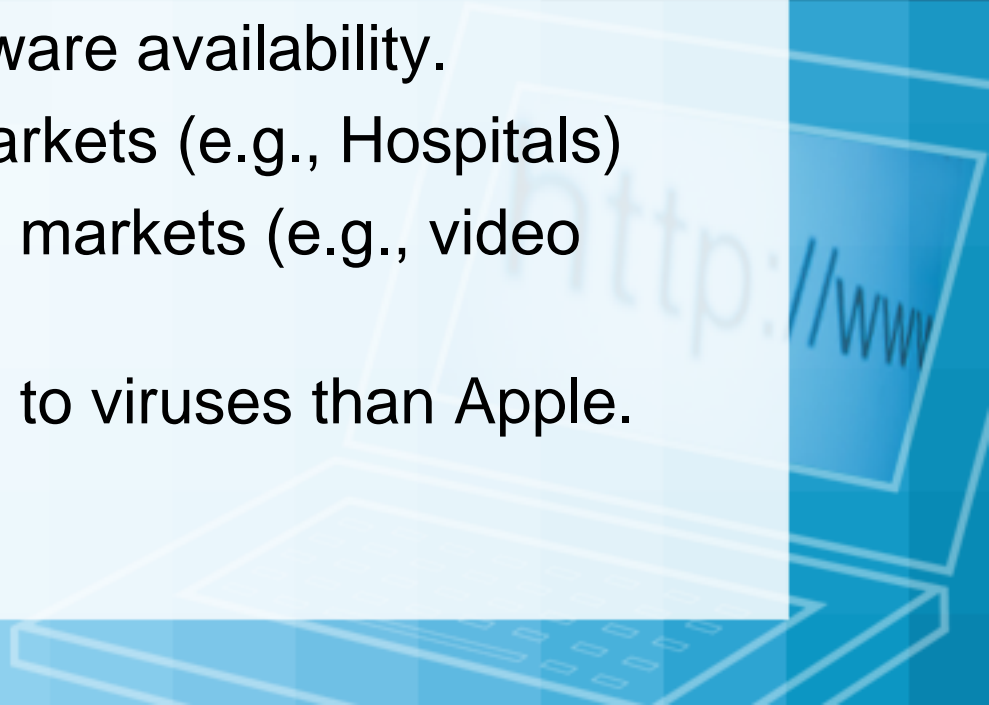


Second Important Decision:



OS Environment Today

- Market Share:
 - Worldwide market share 1st Qtr. 2007
 - PC 96% vs. Apple 4%
 - Laptop market share in the U.S. 1st Qtr. 2007
 - PC 83% vs. Apple 17%
- Translates to support, software availability.
- PCs dominate business markets (e.g., Hospitals)
- Apples dominate “creative” markets (e.g., video production, multimedia)
- Windows more susceptible to viruses than Apple.



Viruses, Worms and Malware, OH MY!



- It is generally true that viruses, worms and malware are a bigger threat on PCs than on Macs... BUT
- The advantage is shrinking.
- We're seeing almost as many warnings for Macs as we are for PCs these days
- Way to go, Apple! You just had to go on TV and brag!!
- Use anti-virus/anti-spyware software on ANY computer you use.

It's YOUR Choice!

- If you want to run Windows, get a PC
- If you want to run OS X, get a Mac
- In the scheme of things- it's just a personal preference.



Where to Shop

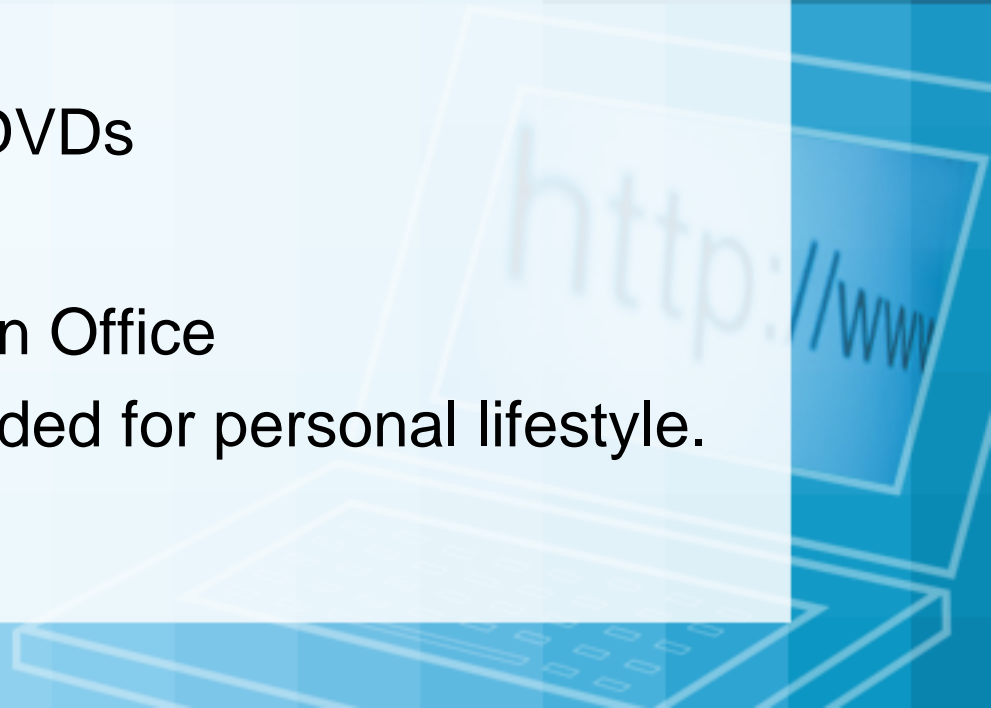
- Normal retail outlets (e.g., Best Buy)
- Warehouse stores (e.g., Costco)
- Internet “stores” (e.g., Newegg.com)
- Internet direct (e.g., dell.com)

- You should always consider support options that you will get from place of purchase.



What else do I need?

- Security
 - A locking security cable
- Backup & File Transfer
 - Flash (or USB) drive
 - Portable Hard Drive
 - Writeable CDs and/or DVDs
- Software
 - Microsoft Office or Open Office
 - Any other software needed for personal lifestyle.



Let's Go PC Shopping...



Customer Rating



4.5 out of 5

Inspiron 537
Mainstream Value with 8
Vibrant Colors

Starting Price **\$299**



Customer Rating



4.5 out of 5

Inspiron 537
Includes 17" Widescreen
Flat Panel Monitor & 8
Vibrant Colors

Starting Price \$529
Instant Savings \$50

Subtotal **\$479**



Customer Rating



4.5 out of 5

Inspiron 537
Bigger Hard Drive & 8
Vibrant Colors

Starting Price \$679
Instant Savings \$100

Subtotal **\$579**



Customer Rating



4.5 out of 5

Inspiron 537
Quad-Core Power, 20"
Monitor, & 8 Vibrant
Colors

Starting Price \$839
Instant Savings \$140

Subtotal **\$699**

Breaking it all down

Starting Price \$299	Subtotal..... \$479	Subtotal..... \$579	Subtotal..... \$699
<input type="checkbox"/> Inspiron 537 MT Inspiron 537 Minitower w/ Black Bezel	Inspiron 537 MT Inspiron 537 Minitower w/ Black Bezel	Inspiron 537 MT Inspiron 537 Minitower w/ Black Bezel	Inspiron 537 MT Inspiron 537 Minitower w/ Black Bezel
<input type="checkbox"/> Processors Intel® Celeron® 450 (512K L2, 2.2GHz, 800FSB)	Processors Intel® Pentium® dual-core E5200 (2MB L2, 2.5GHz, 800FSB)	Processors Intel® Core™ 2 Duo E7400 (3MB L2, 2.8GHz, 1066FSB)	Processors Intel® Core™ 2 Quad Q8200 (4MB L2, 2.33GHz, 1333FSB)
<input type="checkbox"/> Operating System Genuine Windows Vista® Home Basic SP1, 32-Bit	Operating System Genuine Windows Vista® Home Premium Edition SP1, 64-Bit	Operating System Genuine Windows Vista® Home Premium Edition SP1, 64-Bit	Operating System Genuine Windows Vista® Home Premium Edition SP1, 64-Bit
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitors No Monitor	Monitors 17" Dell S1709W HD Widescreen Monitor	Monitors 17" Dell S1709W HD Widescreen Monitor	Monitors 20" Dell S2009W HD Widescreen Monitor
<input type="checkbox"/> Optical Drives 16X DVD+/-RW Drive	Optical Drives 16X DVD+/-RW Drive	Optical Drives 16X DVD+/-RW Drive	Optical Drives 16X DVD+/-RW Drive
<input type="checkbox"/> Memory 2GB ³ Dual Channel DDR2 SDRAM ⁴ at 800MHz- 2 DIMMs	Memory 2GB ³ Dual Channel DDR2 SDRAM ⁴ at 800MHz- 2 DIMMs	Memory 3GB ³ DDR2 SDRAM ⁴ at 800MHz- 2 DIMMs	Memory 3GB ³ DDR2 SDRAM ⁴ at 800MHz- 2 DIMMs
<input type="checkbox"/> Hard Drives 320GB ⁵ Serial ATA Hard Drive (7200RPM) w/DataBurst Cache™	Hard Drives 320GB ⁵ Serial ATA Hard Drive (7200RPM) w/DataBurst Cache™	Hard Drives 500GB ⁵ Serial ATA Hard Drive (7200RPM) w/DataBurst Cache™	Hard Drives 500GB ⁵ Serial ATA Hard Drive (7200RPM) w/DataBurst Cache™

Breaking it all down (cont.)

Starting Price \$299	Subtotal \$479	Subtotal \$579	Subtotal \$699
<input type="checkbox"/> Video Cards Integrated Intel® GMA x4500 Graphics	Video Cards Integrated Intel® GMA x4500 Graphics	Video Cards Integrated Intel® GMA x4500 Graphics	Video Cards ATI Radeon HD 4350 512MB ³
<input type="checkbox"/> Sound Card Integrated 5.1 Channel Audio	Sound Card Integrated 5.1 Channel Audio	Sound Card Integrated 5.1 Channel Audio	Sound Card Integrated 5.1 Channel Audio
<input type="checkbox"/> Service 1Yr Ltd Hardware Warranty, ⁶ InHome Service after Remote Diagnosis ⁷	Service 1Yr Ltd Hardware Warranty, ⁶ InHome Service after Remote Diagnosis ⁷	Service 1Yr Ltd Hardware Warranty, ⁶ InHome Service after Remote Diagnosis ⁷	Service 1Yr Ltd Hardware Warranty, ⁶ InHome Service after Remote Diagnosis ⁷



Recommended for PC (Windows 7)

- At a minimum you should have:
 - Memory: 2 GB
 - Video Card: 256 MB Card
- Other options to consider:
 - Lots of pictures and videos means you'll want a larger Hard Drive.
 - Watching movies or have poor vision, get a larger monitor.
 - Want to backup to DVD, get a DVD Burner.

Let's Go Laptop Shopping...



Customer Rating



4.0 out of 5

Inspiron 14
Thin, Light, Portable! Featuring a
14" Hi-def display!

Starting Price..... **\$449**



Customer Rating



4.0 out of 5

Inspiron 14
3GB Memory! Upgraded Wireless
Card!

Starting Price \$737
Instant Savings **\$133**

Subtotal **\$604**



Customer Rating



4.0 out of 5

Inspiron 14
Core 2 Duo Technology! 320GB
Hard Drive!

Starting Price \$993
Instant Savings **\$218**

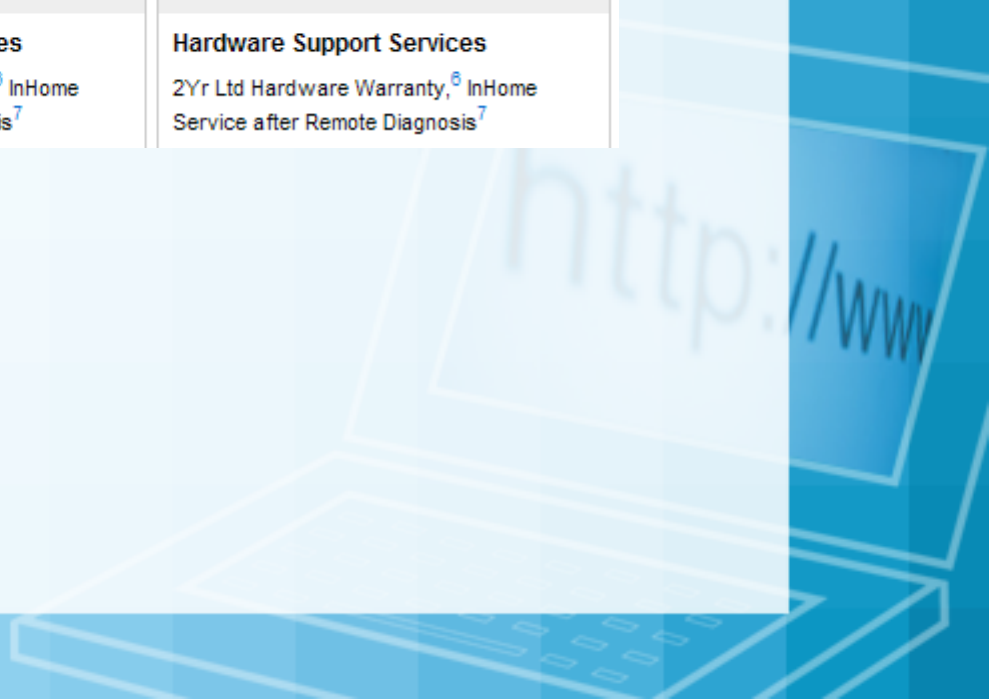
Subtotal **\$775**

Breaking it all down

Starting Price \$449	Subtotal \$604	Subtotal \$775
<input type="checkbox"/> Processor Intel® Pentium™ Dual Core T4200 (2.0GHz/800Mhz FSB/1MB cache)	Processor Intel® Pentium™ Dual Core T4200 (2.0GHz/800Mhz FSB/1MB cache)	Processor Intel® Core™ 2 Duo T6600 (2.2GHz/800Mhz FSB/2MB cache)
<input type="checkbox"/> Operating System Genuine Windows Vista® Home Basic Edition SP1	Operating System Genuine Windows Vista® Home Basic Edition SP1	Operating System Genuine Windows Vista® Home Basic Edition SP1
<input type="checkbox"/> LCD Panel 14.0" High Definition (720p) LED Display with TrueLife™	LCD Panel 14.0" High Definition (720p) LED Display with TrueLife™	LCD Panel 14.0" High Definition (720p) LED Display with TrueLife™
<input type="checkbox"/> CD ROM/DVD ROM 8X CD / DVD Burner (Dual Layer DVD+/-R Drive)	CD ROM/DVD ROM 8X CD / DVD Burner (Dual Layer DVD+/-R Drive)	CD ROM/DVD ROM 8X CD / DVD Burner (Dual Layer DVD+/-R Drive)
<input type="checkbox"/> Memory 2GB ³ Shared Dual Channel DDR2 at 800MHz	Memory 3GB ³ Shared Dual Channel DDR2 at 800MHz	Memory 4GB ⁴ Shared Dual Channel DDR2 at 800MHz
<input type="checkbox"/> Hard Drive 160GB ⁵ SATA Hard Drive (5400RPM)	Hard Drive 250GB ⁵ SATA Hard Drive (5400RPM)	Hard Drive 320GB ⁵ SATA Hard Drive (5400RPM)
<input type="checkbox"/> Video Card Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 4500MHD	Video Card Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 4500MHD	Video Card Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 4500MHD

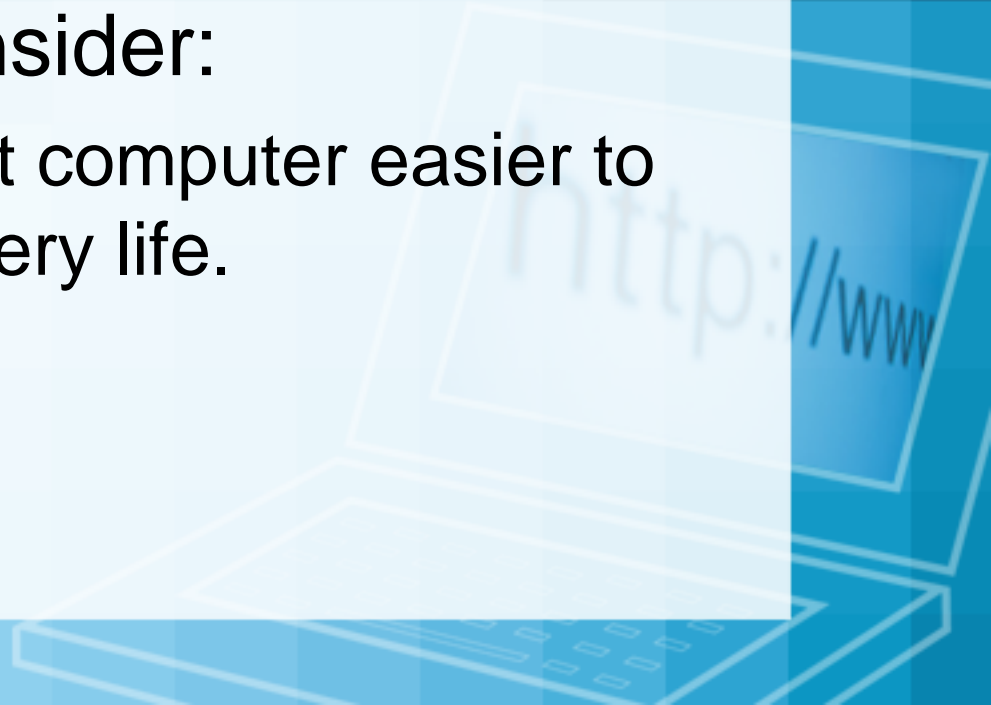
Breaking it all down (cont.)

Starting Price.....	Subtotal.....	Subtotal.....
\$449	\$604	\$775
<input type="checkbox"/> Sound High Definition Audio 2.0	Sound High Definition Audio 2.0	Sound High Definition Audio 2.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Wireless Dell Wireless 1397 802.11g Half Mini-Card	Wireless IntelWiFi Link 5100 802.11agn Half Mini-Card	Wireless IntelWiFi Link 5100 802.11agn Half Mini-Card
<input type="checkbox"/> Battery 37 Whr Lithium Ion Battery (4 cell)	Battery 37 Whr Lithium Ion Battery (4 cell)	Battery 37 Whr Lithium Ion Battery (4 cell)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hardware Support Services 1Yr Ltd Warranty and Mail-In Service	Hardware Support Services 1 Yr Ltd Hardware Warranty, ⁶ InHome Service after Remote Diagnosis ⁷	Hardware Support Services 2Yr Ltd Hardware Warranty, ⁶ InHome Service after Remote Diagnosis ⁷



Recommended for laptop...

- At a minimum you should have:
 - Memory: 2 GB
 - Wi-Fi Card: 802.11n
- Other options to consider:
 - Screen size makes it computer easier to view, but drains battery life.



Online Demo



Questions?

Contact Information:

Garrett Hungerford (ghungerford@ssldl.info)

Network Administrator

Salem-South Lyon District Library

