

THE M&H MONITOR



Keep Up With Us



When is the best time to buy a new computer?

By: Timothy Harrington

Stop and think about how long you have had your computer. Now, ask yourself the following questions: Which operating system is it running? Does it still receive updates? Does it sound the same as when you first bought it? Does it struggle to run even the most basic of tasks (writing a document, checking e-mail, working with company spreadsheets, etc.)?

Many factors go into deciding whether or not to replace a computer. On average, a workstation should be swapped out roughly every four years. One of the biggest reasons is that operating systems will eventually become unsupported after some time, thus leaving your PC vulnerable to attacks. Virus and malware will evolve to take advantage of flaws in those systems, which often are not patched due to this lack of support. New hardware may not be supported by the manufacturer for older operating systems, leaving you with new devices that may not work the way you need them to if at all.

Another factor is physical wear and tear on your PC. What kind of environment is it kept in? Is it cool, dry, and dust free? Or is it warm, humid, and dusty? Due to the amount of work it has to do, your computer's processor can generate enough heat to boil a glass of water if not properly cooled. If you keep your desktop unit on a floor, its fans are pulling in more dust than it would if it were on a table or desk. Dust acts as insulation when it accumulates over time inside a computer, which keeps components warmer and causes the fans to work harder and louder to keep the internal temperatures down. If the fans are working too hard, they run the risk of burning out, which will eventually lead to hardware failure.



There are other situations beyond computer physical health which may lead to computer replacement as well. Older software might not run as well as it used to or has become obsolete but the latest version requires a newer version of the operating system. What happens when there is a new piece of software being used in the office but upon installation you are given a message that you don't have sufficient hardware? This is by far the biggest sign that your PC needs to be replaced. There are ways to remedy this, as hardware can be upgraded, but that will only take it so far. The older a PC is, the harder and more expensive it is to come across hardware that is still compatible with it and where it makes sense financially – for example, it would not make sense to spend \$400 to upgrade a 5-year-old PC when that upgrade might only add a year or two of usability.

The most important thing any computer does is help users be as efficient as possible. When that is not possible due to computer age or lack of performance, it is generally a good idea to proactively replace aging computer systems with new ones. This will allow employees to be as efficient as possible and help to prevent situations where a computer fails and that employee is now working at half pace if not worse. If you need any help replacing your PC or are wondering if now is the right time, we are glad to help. Call us anytime at 866-9MH-Tech, or email us at support@mhconsults.net



“Yes, I did say I wanted to change the wallpaper on my desktop. But not that type. You don’t know much about computers, do you?”

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