

Article: [COMPUTERS BEHAVING BADLY](#)

Topic: Upgrades

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Thinking about getting a new PC?. Or maybe your current machine is getting long in the tooth!. There are some basic points to consider first.

If you want to increase your storage space or processing speed, then one option is to upgrade one or more of the components inside your computer.

Try increasing the memory to get a speed increase. Don't think that doubling the memory means double the speed. Many factors are involved with machine performance and memory is just one aspect.

If space on your hard drive is getting critical then getting a new, larger hard drive will solve the problem. Or maybe getting a CD burner will give you the option of storing infrequently used data to CD for referencing later. This frees up space on your machine plus has the added benefit of providing a backup medium.

The greatest benefit would come from upgrading your motherboard/CPU. This way you get the latest generation of processor and, hopefully, all your existing hardware can still be used. This upgrade option requires some extra constraints and may also trigger other component upgrades.

Migrating to another Operating System, probably Windows XP, could be an improvement. The new features and ease of use alone may be attractive. The warning here is that this option may in itself require extra upgrades like memory and/or the hard drive.

To give an ageing PC a boost, consider upgrading to a wireless keyboard/mouse, or LCD(flat panel) screen or the new version USB2.0 ports which are considerably faster than the USB1.0 variant.

Another option is to go the whole hog and purchase a new machine. Obviously this is the most expensive option but a major benefit is that your new PC will be 'future proof' for the next couple of years and should meet all your current and foreseeable needs for that time. Expect to pay anything from around \$1200 for the complete system package.

If your peripherals (mouse, keyboard, monitor, printer etc) are adequate for your needs then maybe just getting a new 'box' is all you are after. These are available from \$600 for the latest releases. The cheapest option is what's called a 'bare box', which means no mouse, keyboard or monitor and more importantly, no software. This assumes you can use your current gear and transfer your existing software to your new PC.

In the end you have to decide whether the financial outlay is worth it. There should be some discernable benefit that justifies the cost. Don't be caught in the trap of spending money on your machine if it is adequately meeting your current needs.

For a guide as to the prices you should expect to pay, visit the web site www.umart.com.au.

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