

The Misuse of Technology

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I recently returned from a visit to my parents and while there my brother had purchased a new computer. That's where my problem began. I started to think about all of the great things I could do with a computer like that. Then it hit me, I have no need for that kind of power yet. We are caught in a society that compels us to get the newest and best technology we can. The problem is that for most of us having the newest and best is more than we will ever need. I took stock of everything that I want to do now and in the near future and realized that the computer I have is all that I need. I can save my money for a better computer when the time is right.

I am not alone in this situation; many people purchase software or peripheral devices only to find out that their computer is not able to support it. In response many go out and purchase brand new computers rather than look for workable alternatives. Now this is not to say that this is wrong because it may be that the only alternative is to purchase a new computer.

When funding is an issue, wise choices are the order of the day. A friend of mine was telling me that his school wanted to purchase some computers but wanted the best that was available; however they would not have enough computers to go around. The challenge in the classroom was not worth having the best that was available at that time. The answer, downgrade on the technology and meet the needs of the classroom. The rule here is don't purchase technology if what it is intended for is not useable.

Having the best is not always the answer, in a conversation with an old college friend who works as a computer tech support; I was amazed to find that he still has the very first computer he purchased over ten years ago and he still uses it. I still have a 386 at home that I use everyday, it has its limits but for all I do at home it is enough for now.

The general rule of thumb when purchasing computers is to find the system requirements for the software and peripheral devices that you want to use, and use that as a guide for the computer that you want to purchase. Every peripheral device and all software applications give a list of minimum and recommended hardware and software requirements. The RAM and the hard drive should be the things that you splurge on. If you use this as a guide, you will be able to run all of the software you have and be able to purchase new software in the future.