

## Out with the Desktop and In with the Laptop?

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...not necessarily...deciding whether to go with a desktop or a laptop is much like choosing between Toyota and Honda...both are great, it's simply up to the consumer. Should you get rid of your bulky desktop in exchange for a slim-line laptop? Only, you can answer that question. When trying to decide between a desktop and a laptop, you need to focus on what you are primarily going to be using your computer for. You need to ponder both your needs and preferences. Once you've determined your use for a computer, it will be easier for you to resolve whether to go with a desktop or a laptop.



### Why a Desktop?

Desktops are fine if you do most of your computing at home. If your need to take work outside of the home is infrequent and even when necessary, a floppy disk will suffice - this option may be for you. Being satisfied with a desktop, is rewarding because it saves you quite a bit of money.

The price of a desktop is considerably less expensive than a laptop. If cost is a concern for you, a desktop is by far, a better choice. The expense tends to be lower as various manufacturers' parts can easily fit inside the roomy interior of a desktop. Having so much room inside a computer also allows for simplified hardware upgrades.

Upgrades in desktops are easy because spaces are reserved for hardware expansion. Because it is relatively effortless to access the interior of the desktop, many owners do their upgrades themselves, consequently saving them money and time (they don't have to give them out to be serviced). You will also find friends and acquaintances ready to assist with upgrades because it is so easy to get inside the unit. These upgrades allow users to increase their computing speed by adding various hardware improvements.

If you are looking for the fastest and latest computing power, desktops are inclined to already be a step ahead of laptops because they don't experience a delay in incorporating new technology (they don't have to reduce components' size to fit the unit box like laptops do). Because desktops have a tendency to have the latest technology speeds and video capabilities, they attract avid-game players and graphic-intensive users.

So, if you are relatively stationary, desire easy upgrades, use graphic intensive programs and safeguard your money .... a desktop will appease your needs.

### Why a Laptop?

Laptops are a very attractive buy for individuals who are always on the go. It is very convenient to swing a laptop, in its case, over your shoulder and go on your way. This convenience allows you use maximize your time efficiently by continuing to work on projects or assignments - regardless of your whereabouts. Even though mobility is a priority, you need to take into account that when in an isolated location your computing duration depends on battery life, which is something to get used to. Users often carry along an extra battery in case one dies on them. Again, this is another cost factor that you need to consider. If money is not a hindrance, you may consider the laptop alternative.

A hindrance in the past, was the computing speed of a laptop in comparison to a desktop. These days, however, some high-end laptops are comparable to powerful desktops. The drawback nonetheless, is that you might be a step behind new technology that's already implemented in desktops because companies have to find ways of reducing the size of the new technology components to meet the unique designs of each laptop. The wait for these developments however is not considerable as companies strive to readily adapt new technology concepts. Because each laptop possesses its unique interior architecture, upgrade options are limited to the user, often depending on the company for direction and service.

Upgrades are not so smooth when it comes to laptops. Few users, friends or acquaintances will willingly delve into taking apart a laptop. Besides, it is extremely laborious to find a part that will fit the unique, space efficient style of a particular company model. These space efficient machines are handy but there is a "price to pay".

You need to be prepared to spend quite a lot more money for a laptop opposed to a desktop. If you don't, you'll end up paying for a lower end system that is simply geared to data entry and word processing (nothing fancy). When you get into paying for higher-end laptops, then you get a mini computer that is as good as a powerful desktop. If buying one of the high-end laptops, you usually end up with a heavier one though, in most situations. The slim-line ones are lighter; consequently you are most likely giving up some "frills". A "frill" that you might not want to overlook, is the technical service provided with the laptop purchase.

You need to thoroughly examine the service provided with the laptop purchase. Most laptop hardware services require you to mail back the laptop to the company, which may take days, even up to weeks to return. This can prove to be a serious inconvenience. Sure enough it is a delight to be able to take your laptop everywhere with you but what if you are overseas while experiencing a hardware problem? That is when it would have been a good idea to purchase extra coverage that enables you to take your machine into an overseas company representative. Again however, that is an additional expense to the consumer.

Perhaps you can afford to acquire a laptop but it may not compliment your personality type. If you are someone who generally forgets or misplaces things - think twice before investing in a laptop. (It doesn't take much agility, strength or skill to steal a neglected one).

A laptop is a good option to consider if you roam, don't rely on frequent upgrades, and have the money to spend.

Users can argue back and forth whether a desktop or laptop is better, but only you know the answer for yourself...what are YOUR needs and priorities?