

# COMPUTER TROUBLESHOOTERS

## Global NEWS

® February 2005

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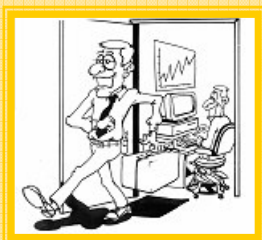
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*“Thousands of businesses  
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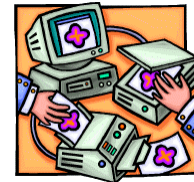
## PCs Going Cheap? (but are they?)

As you probably would have noticed, the prices of computers have dropped considerably recently. This may tempt you into upgrading your computers, but there are some things to consider before taking the plunge.

Compatibility is the biggest issue. If you buy a new computer, you can almost guarantee it will come with Windows XP. If you are upgrading from Windows 98 (possibly because Microsoft are ending support for it this year?) you may find that your software is incompatible with the new machine. Make sure you test that your programs work, and if they don't, think about if you can afford to upgrade your software as well as replace your PCs.

Windows XP also configures networks differently, you may find that the way your network and printers are set up at the moment is not compatible with a new Windows XP machine and you would need to make changes.

If you do decide that you do want to upgrade your computers, think about what you need. There is no point in paying for what you don't need, or buying something that won't work in your environment. Think about the hardware. Are you going for a computer for word processing and e-mail, or for high powered graphic design?






















If all you want is a basic computer for word processing, creating spreadsheets and accessing the internet, you shouldn't need all the fancy offerings that come with some computers. Look for a good quality basic machine. Your old screen, keyboard and mouse will still work with the new computer so do you really want new ones?

If you need more than just the basic PC, look at what you are getting. If you just want a computer with a CD burner and a graphics card as extras, make sure that's all you get and see if you can get money off by not buying other extras with the machine.

Upgrading, although worthwhile, is a process for experts. Don't try and take it on yourself, as that's usually when you start seeing problems. Make sure that what you buy is what you want and is compatible with your current environment. Know exactly what software you have to upgrade when you buy the new computers.

Before making a commitment, take advice! You will save money, time and effort simply by talking to a Computer Troubleshooter. If you get it wrong, you could waste a lot of money, time and put your systems out of action.

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When Purchasing that new computer thing to consider.

- What are you going to use the computer for
- What other operating systems and software do you have in your current environment.
- What growth do you expect in the computer use
- Be sure about what is really included with the computer.  
(monitor and printers pictured in ads may not be included.  
Software maybe trial versions good for only 90 days or have limited use.)

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