

My Computer is 5 years old – do I really need a new one?

By P. Phillips

Absolutely YES!!! This goes back to the old expression “Penny wise, pound foolish”. While keeping an old computer may seem like the cheap solution for you and your department, you and others making that decision are actually costing the University more by not buying the new machine. Here are the reasons,

According to industry analysts at Gartner Inc., failure rates for desktop computers are 5% the first year, move up to 12% years 2-4 and higher beyond that. Failure rates for portable computers are 15% the first year increasing to 22% by year 3 and higher beyond that. We purchase 4 year warranties for our computers and beyond that point, when those units break, you are responsible for the parts and the labor to repair them. Unfortunately, the one thing we can't repair is your data if your hard drive goes bad – we attempt to recover, but this takes several days and is not always successful.

Technology flies along at a tremendous pace. Take a look at the following two specifications for the CSU Performance unit, the first from 5 years ago and the second from today:

Gateway E4000 Performance Unit	HP dc7800 Performance Unit
2.4 GHz Processor w/ 533 MHz FSB	2.4GHz Core 2 Processor w/ 1333 MHz FSB
512 MB RAM	2000 MB RAM
ATA100 Hard Drive	SATA Hard Drive
64MB Integrated Video Graphics	256 MB Dedicated Graphics Card
CD-RW	16X SuperMulti LightScribe Optical Drive-CD/DVD drive
3.5” Floppy	No Floppy

As you can see, the difference in just 5 years is dramatic; the new unit is at least 2-4 times the capacity of the old one. The new specifications are required to effectively run current operating systems and software (Office 2007, Adobe CS3 products, SAS, SPSS, current Anti-Virus Software). Keeping an old computer because it is “cheaper” is like continuing to use a hand saw instead of a power saw – you can do it, but it will cost you time and effort.

Old computers, for the reasons mentioned above, run old software. This old software, in many cases, is no longer supported by software vendors. This means that no patches are being released to keep your computer safe from hacking, viruses and other malware. You are putting your data and the computers around you at risk by leaving your computer exposed in this way.

The last reason is that the new Performance Computer no

longer costs what it used to. Whereas a Performance Computer from 5 years ago cost \$822 and a 17” monitor \$449, today a Performance Computer costs you \$660 and a 19” W monitor \$185. Old PCs may be cheaper for your department to keep, but the expense to the University for repairing, tuning, lost data, and lost productivity more than outweigh the cost of a new machine.

Help the University to be more cost effective. Replace your 5+ year old equipment soon.

New Adobe Contract

By P. Phillips

CSU has entered into an Adobe Volume Discount Agreement on April 1. We have changed resellers, moving from CDW-G to TechDepot, along with the change in agreements. The procedures for purchasing and installing Adobe software will be the same, just through the new vendor. Pricing will change slightly, with many products becoming a little less expensive and a few increasing a small amount.

Pricing and ordering information are located on the IS&T web page at: <http://www.csuohio.edu/ist/Adobe.shtml>.

Our contact at Tech Depot is:

Susan Agostino
Account Manager
TECH DEPOT by Office Depot
6 Cambridge Drive
Trumbull, CT 06611
Phone: (800) 625-9866 x7316
Fax: 203-615-7006
Email: sagostino@techdepot.com
www.techdepot.com/pro

If you have any questions, please call Peter Phillips at x3779 or email p.phillips@csuohio.edu.

Backing up your Data

By P. Phillips

Every day, IS&T receives multiple requests to fix or upgrade PCs so that they can become functional again. At least once a week we discover that the operating system is corrupt, the drive is going bad, or the drive is bad. In all these cases, our first step is to try to copy the data off the drive. Most of the time, we are able to do this using standard PC based tools. Occasionally, we can't, and have to use forensics tools for a second attempt at recovering the data. Sometimes, this also does not work and you are basically out of luck. Occasionally, if the data is important enough, we can send the drive out to a recovery company, but this is expensive (about \$1,000) and may not work.

If the attempted recovery is unsuccessful, then any research, working documents, and other information are gone, with no way to recover them.

We are often confronted with panic, denial and disbelief, and many times IS&T is blamed for the data loss. I can tell you unconditionally that IS&T is not at fault in these situations. The responsibility to back up YOUR data belongs to YOU. University policy states that YOU must back up important university data.

Can IS&T help you do this? Absolutely! We offer network storage at a very reasonable monthly rate and back that data up nightly. We also recommend USB attached hard drives so that you can conveniently back up your data locally. Call x5050 to have a ticket opened up so that we can discuss your backup options with you.

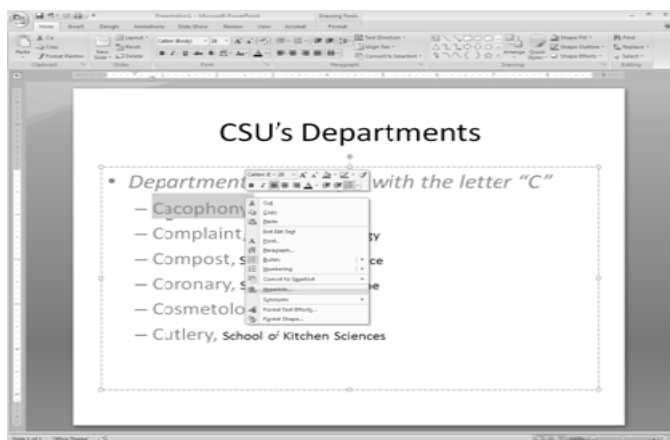
PowerPoint Tip of the Month

Hyperlinks in Presentations

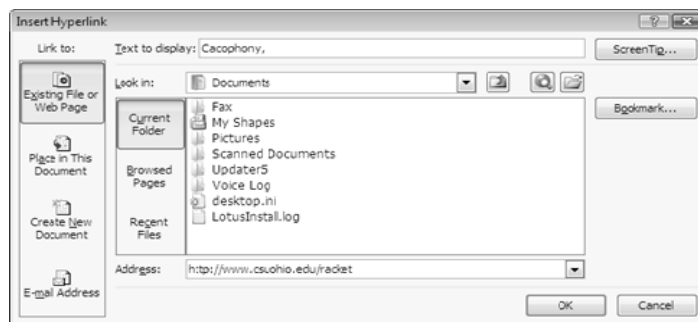
In PowerPoint, you can link to an Internet Web page. Done properly, this will give your presentation a dynamic feel that often provides a welcomed diversion to the typical talk-to-the-slide presentation.

So, how do you do it? Glad you asked. While there is more than one way to do this, the explanation below shows a very easy approach.

1. Find a desired Web page to which you want to link, and copy the URL address (this is the *http://www...* line in the browser)



2. Go to your page in PowerPoint, select the word or words that you want to be the link, right-click on the selected words and click on *Hyperlink* in the displayed options.



3. On the screen that appears, type the URL in step 1 in the *Address:* line, just above the OK and Cancel buttons.
4. Click the OK button, and you're done!

This link will not work in *current view*; you must be in *presentation view* for the links to call up your default browser and send it to the Web page specified.

50 Tips and Random Thoughts About Email: Part 13 (continued from past months and to be continued)

44. Never believe the 'FROM:' part of an email. The 'FROM:' field can be easily spoofed. I can send anyone an email saying it came from Genghis Kahn, Julius Caesar or Frodo the Hobbit. So don't be fooled when you see an email that says it was sent by a friend or colleague. Virus and spam emails always say they come from someone other than the sender.
45. Your email password is like underwear – change it often.

Quote of the Month

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing what they could and should do for themselves.

-Abraham Lincoln

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