

Desktop vs. Laptop? Is there really a choice?

YES! There is a choice and can you guess what it is? Believe it or not, the decision to buy either a desktop or a laptop has been around for 9 or 10 years now. The reasons for purchasing one or the other has changed over the years usually it was dependant on what you were going to use it for.

Back in the old days (2 or 3 years ago) laptops were heavy, the screens were small and the price was expensive. You had to really justify the reason for a laptop. Usually it was the road warriors or the college students who were purchasing laptops. A revolution has occurred over the last year or so, and laptops have become a tool for every man (or woman, or child) it seems. The advent of wireless networking has pushed the laptop straight into the mainstream of device of choice.

I said in the beginning of the article there is a choice. I have listed below some of my pros and cons for both to help you in your buying decision.

Laptop:

Pros:

- Screen size – with the advent of the 15.4” & 17” screens and wide screen technology, this makes screen size now a plus
- Weight – most laptops now weigh in under 7 lbs.
- Wireless connectivity – I believe this is the biggest plus to the laptops of today. The built-in wireless capability is a plus and the addition of the cellular air cards (which now are built-in to some laptops) you can literally be online almost anywhere!

Cons:

- Security – The portability factor makes your laptop a favorite for thieves.
- Keyboard – Size and ergonomics- Positioning and the size of the keyboard may be a problem for some of us fat fingered users!
- Screen size – If your computer is going to be in the same location 100% of the time, why give up the size and comfort of a larger desktop screen.
- Cost – Getting the most bang for the buck. The cost to performance ratio is getting closer, but expect to pay more for a laptop.
- Maintenance – Typically, hardware repairs for laptops will cost you more, due to the different brands and configurations.

Desktop:

Pros:

- Screen size – with the advent of the 17”-22”+ screens, the merging of entertainment viewing mediums is getting closer.
- Maintenance – Most of the desktop parts are universal which means less expensive and quicker repair.
- Ergonomics - multiple positioning of the keyboard & monitor are possible
- Cost – You can gain more computing power for less dollars

Cons:

- No portability – The computer is tied to one location.
- Size – Desk space and floor space are valuable commodities.

So, how do you decide which to buy? It really does come down to customer preference and application. The computer has now developed into a job, entertainment, and convenience device. The major use of the device will more than likely dictate which you purchase. Your local computer dealer, like Computer Connections, will be more than happy to assist you in making your buying decision!