



“How You Can Realize Significant Computer Savings”

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You can save money on computers for the following reason: it is no longer necessary to buy a new computer every two or three years. The computer stores and the software vendors are not going to admit this, but it is true, unless you are a videogame player. This is primarily the case because of Moore's Law, which states that the cost of computing will be reduced by $\frac{1}{2}$ every 18 months. It also states that the power of computing will double every 18 months, and the capacity of storage devices will double every 18 months (all three are essentially the same).

So how come computers are not free by now?

Well, the cost to produce has shrunk to a very small amount but the manufacturers keep the prices artificially inflated so their industry does not fail and they can keep making the hefty profits. Microsoft could (and should) produce only one operating system and upgrade it every five or ten (or twenty years), and everything would work fine; instead, they keep introducing new operating systems every year or so to force people to buy more computers.

If you only use a word processor and an Internet browser and maybe a few other applications, you should really never have to get a more powerful computer than you have right now. I have had the same computer for five years and I expect to use it for 10 more, or until the hardware fails (or the mysterious updates from Microsoft make it crash). Now I do have another graphics computer that may need to be upgraded because I run a graphic program on it, but I should only have to upgrade it once in the next ten years.

The truth is, we have reached and surpassed the computing resource



limits and we no longer need to buy bigger and faster computers unless we need to run specialized software for some reason. For the typical application—word-processing, email, Internet access, accounting, etc.—we just don't need any more power or a new fancy operating system every year. Most people just use a computer for email and Internet browsing and printing documents. The power of today's computers far surpasses what is required to do that (as a side note, the threshold was reached somewhere around the year 2000). The major computer vendors will keep trying to make you think you need a new computer, but don't believe it.

Now that you understand that, you can ignore those who tell you otherwise and you can expect to save much of the money you had budgeted for new computer expenses.