**Subject: My new computer**
Posted by Bill Epstein on Fri, 07 Dec 2007 10:38:30 GMT

Arrived yesterday. Dell Inspiron 530S.It shipped 1 day late according to the estimated shipping date and Dell sent it DHL overnight!Then I didn't have any sound and, using the chat on the Dell Support site, the very capable tech diagnosed and fixed the problem in about 20 minutes. Dell rules!The slim case is kinda cheesy and I can't get used to the vertical disc loading but it's sooo quiet and fast compared to my previous. I got it with XP and it's spec'd to run Vista so it's screaming fast.The 19" LCD monitor is killer, too. I even watched a movie last night. Now if I just could figure out how to adjust the brightness, etc. Maybe I'll dig out the manual.In 1986 I paid $4000 for an IBM AT. 1999, $1000 for a Compaq and $400 for a monitor then $400 more in 2004 to update it. This was less than $600.I'm in Hog Heaven!

**Subject: Re: My new computer**
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 07 Dec 2007 14:22:49 GMT

Excellent!Stick with XP - Don't "upgrade" to Vista.  I got a new laptop a month ago and it came with Vista.  It is an incredibly bloated operating system and that makes it slooooooow  A 2Ghz Pentium dual-core running Vista runs about the same as a 1.6Ghz Celeron 420 running XP. That's what I used to run and I think it was faster, actually.  They've also added some "features" that make it harder to use.  I don't care for Vista much at all.

**Subject: Congratulations! (nt)**
Posted by SteveBrown on Fri, 07 Dec 2007 16:59:40 GMT

nt

**Subject: Re: My new computer**
Posted by steve f on Fri, 07 Dec 2007 18:28:35 GMT

i picked up a cheap laptop that uses Vista home basic, and I'm not impressed.  I agree that it's slower than XP.  No desire to add the full vista upgrade.Steve

Subject: Re: Vista's a memory hog
Posted by Bill Epstein on Fri, 07 Dec 2007 22:30:17 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

My son-in-law, the computer genius, warned me against Vista. MS is feeling the heat from Apple and had to do something. Makes you wonder how much real talent is still there if Vista was the best they could do.  Everyone I talk to who knows anything about computers is aware of the issue, it seems. 50% of the Inspirons on the Dell site are available with XP in one of 3 versions. It's probably a bust for MS as it should be.

Subject: Wayne--- new computer
Posted by Shane on Sat, 08 Dec 2007 04:25:08 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Wayne, since you're computer savvy I was wondering if you might recommend a computer for $800 or so (or less) that runs on XP for my son.  We are wanting to get him one (he's chipping in all his BDay and Xmas money  ) that he can do some graphics on.  He's been messing around with Gamemaker and likes to write his own scripts, applets, and some code to make his own games.  I was thinking if I can get something with 3Gb Ram, a decent graphics card, and a goodly sized HD like 500Gb it would get him started.  We can even go without a nice monitor at this point to get him more puter as we have an old one to get him by for a couple months--then we could get him a nice 22" widescreen.

Subject: Bill-Specs
Posted by Shane on Sat, 08 Dec 2007 04:56:58 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Bill, would you mind listing the specs you got?

Subject: Re: Bill-Specs
Posted by Bill Epstein on Sat, 08 Dec 2007 05:24:39 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

PROCESSOR Intel®Pentium® dual-core processor E2140 (1MB L2,1.60GHz,800 FSB) edit OPERATING SYSTEM Genuine Windows® XP Home Edition edit MONITOR 19 inch S199WFP Widescreen Digital Flat Panel Monitor with TrueLife* edit MEMORY 1GB Dual Channel DDR2 SDRAM at 667MHz- 2DIMMs edit HARD DRIVE 250GB Serial ATA Hard Drive (7200RPM)

w/DataBurst Cache™ edit OPTICAL DRIVE 48X CDRW/DVD Combo Drive edit VIDEO CARD Integrated Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3100 edit SOUND Integrated 7.1 Channel Audio edit KEYBOARD & MOUSE Dell USB Keyboard and Dell Optical USB Mouse edit FLOPPY & MEDIA READER No Floppy Drive Included edit MODEM & WIRELESS 56K PCI Data Fax Modem $598 I paid also included $79 for a Works Suite with WordYou should try the Dell outlet store. Good hunting.

---

## Subject: Vista Fix
Posted by Frances on Sat, 08 Dec 2007 13:09:51 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Dual-boot Ubuntu. Save vista for when you HAVE to be in MS-space. Comes with office suite, web apps, easy to use, self-installs very well.A little tweek, but the first real mainstream *nix.AND IT'S ALL FREE!
 Get Ubuntu!

---

## Subject: Re: Vista Fix
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 08 Dec 2007 15:11:31 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Yeah, I work on UNIX and Linux all day, every day.  Some of the guys I work with are real Linux biggots and won't get anywhere near Microsoft products.  They refuse to run anything but SuSE or Fedora on their laptops/desktops.  I'm a little more relaxed in that.  I'll run MS products on the desktop if they do the job.  Windows 3.1 did not, so I ran OS/2 (2.1 and 3.0) back then but when Win95 came out, Microsoft finally had a decent OS.  Not great, but not bad.  Win98 and XP were pretty good.  The NT core stuff makes a decent desktop OS.  I wouldn't run any Microsoft product as a server though.  It doesn't scale. And Vista is a mstake, in my opinion.  The preceding MS operating systems gave you something for your added weight.  Vista doesn't even give you parity - it's a step back.  It tries to look like a more secure OS but all it really does is get in your way. The mail program is absolutely snail bait, trying to do way too much in the background.  Vista sucks in my opinion, XP is much better.

---

## Subject: Re: Wayne--- new computer
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 08 Dec 2007 15:35:41 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

What Bill got is pretty good.  That's what I generally do these days too - Look on the websites of the companies like Dell, Gateway, IBM and HP for deals.  Grab 'em when you find them.  They 'll

change every week or so.I tend to treat computers as commodities, buying the best band-for-the-buck box when I need one.  I tend to keep a couple desktops running at all times and use them as file/print servers. When I buy one, I turn it on and leave it running 24/7.  Load it up with everything important to me, so both servers have my data on them.  They usually stay running for about 4 years like this, and so I buy a replacement after a couple years and put it on the network.  This gives me some redundancy and keeps my important data in several places.  I also keep a couple laptops running and connect everything with a wireless network.  The laptops are nice when you have to travel, plus you can work from your easy chair in the stereo room.I don't pay the premium for cutting edge processing power unless I really need it.  Doing graphics work is one place you really need it.  I did graphics work for a while in the 1990's, so I had an Inmos parallel processing network and a Targa graphics card.  But usually, I get systems that are a bit back off the cutting edge.  Cutting edge costs a lot, and give it three months and the price is substantially reduced.  One thing though, gamers often do get systems that are optimized for graphics and processing power.  Look at the graphics board and make sure it has the resolution and speed you want.  Look for deal on systems that are optimized for graphics and gaming.