**Columbus Computer Repair:** A History

Columbus Computer Repair began in 1998 with John D’Amato and George Schultz, two college students who turned their apartment near the campus of The Ohio State University into an ad hoc computer repair shop. At first, John and George fixed computers for friends and family as a way to help pay for school, but as word spread throughout campus and beyond, their repair business quickly grew too large for the confines of their small off-campus apartment. Columbus Computer Repair was incorporated early in 1999, and moved to a small warehouse in downtown Columbus, where John and George could better accommodate the growing demand for their services. Unfortunately, their workload became so heavy that the young college students had to put their education on hold.

Not too long after Columbus Computer Repair moved into its new home in downtown Columbus, the tech bubble burst, putting many fledgling IT companies out of business. It very nearly did the same to the young computer repair company. The recession that followed forced many businesses to cut costs anyway they could, including extending the productive lives of their tech assets. Columbus Computer Repair’s quality and low-cost repair and refurbishment services became the saving grace of many companies during those rough economic times.

As the economy slowly and steadily improved, John’s and George’s business continued to grow. By 2003, Columbus Computer Repair had opened up six new repair shops in Central Ohio. Two years later, it had expanded throughout Ohio and extended its reach into neighboring states, with fifty shops located in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Indiana. By 2008, that number doubled, and Columbus Computer Repair had shops throughout the Midwest, as well as repair shops in New York, Florida, California, and Texas.

Columbus Computer Repair had found its niche early on, but as the Green IT movement gained steam in the latter half of the past decade, the company grew to provide resale and recycling services to its many corporate customers. Not only could their business clients have their IT equipment repaired, they now could sell their old equipment back to Columbus Computer Repair for resale or for responsible recycling by reputable e-recyclers. This benefitted the repair shop’s corporate customers in two ways. The first way was the enhancement of that company’s bottom line, as they shared in the proceeds from the resale of computers with Columbus Computer Repair. The second was the reputation the business received from being a friend to the environment. It was a win-win for everybody involved, including the customers who bought the refurbished computers, as they got a sound product for a reasonable price.

As governments and businesses worldwide increasingly recognize the importance of responsible use and disposal of technology, and as the rapid advance and expanded usage of computers in our daily lives continues; Columbus Computer Repair will remain an important force in the field of IT asset reclamation and recycling.