Title:
A Checklist for Used Computers

Word Count:
585

Summary:
It is very important to check a used computer thoroughly before buying it as it
may lead to problems in the future. This article lists out a few key points that
you should keep in mind while buying a used computer.

Keywords:
used computer, used computers, cheap used computer, stolen computer, laptops,
used laptops, refurbished laptops, cheap used laptops

Article Body:
It is very important to check a used computer thoroughly before buying it as it
may lead to problems in the future. A hard drive will not show any outward
signs but may be deteriorating. The same way the needle can suddenly slip and
can cause scratches on the disc ultimately leading to memory loss as used
computers can fail any time. If they are checked, the faults which may occur
can be known. Let us first see the possible faults which may occur while
purchasing a used computer.

Hard disk failures can happen due to heavy wear and tear over a period of time.
The read and write heads of a hard disk are used to retrieve or recode data
stored on the hard disk with the help of a disk platter rotating at a high
speed. Over a period of time the risk of failure or malfunction of disk
increases. Faulty sectors of the hard disks can be found out only if a full
surface scan is done on the used computer. The scanning time depends on the
capacity and size of the hard disk of the used computer. Many skip this
procedure due to the time consuming process of scanning the whole disk and end
up purchasing a used computer with a faulty sector.

Monitors need to be checked for any faults. The malfunctioning of a monitor is
called a "dry joint" which results in the monitor not working after getting
warmed. This can be checked only if the monitor is made to work for at least 20
to 30 minutes after switching on the computer.

Next is to look for any possibilities of the central processing unit getting
freezed. Normally all the central processing units have a fan and heat sink for

keeping the unit cool. Over a period of time the fans may not work properly due to the accumulation of dust and dirt resulting in over heating of the central processing unit and even leading to stopping from functioning. While buying a used computer the fan needs to be checked and if any abnormal sound is heard, it is not good for purchase.

The used computer may have a higher possibility of getting crashed and freezed due to the usage of the operating system for a good number of years. There may be a cache or RAM fault due to the over exposure leading to loss of data. To increase the performance of the computer and to avoid crashing, the operating system of the used computer can be reinstalled with a new operating system or a fresh one.

While checking the used computers for any faults, it is good to disconnect the network connection if any present before performing the tests. Also it is advisable to check the drives like the CD or DVD by opening and closing them and also playing something on the drives to see how they work. Monitors of the used computers can be checked for the resolution and brightness by trying different options of color, settings and so on. To check the hard disk size the CMOS setup can be gone through and to verify the speed of the processor, cache and RAM the pause button is pressed when it appears on the screen during the booting process. To check the booting process, the computer can be turned on and off a few times and seen how it responds. Checking should be done to see if all the passwords are erased before purchasing a used computer.