

Got Questions?



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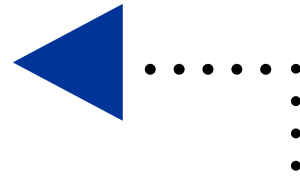
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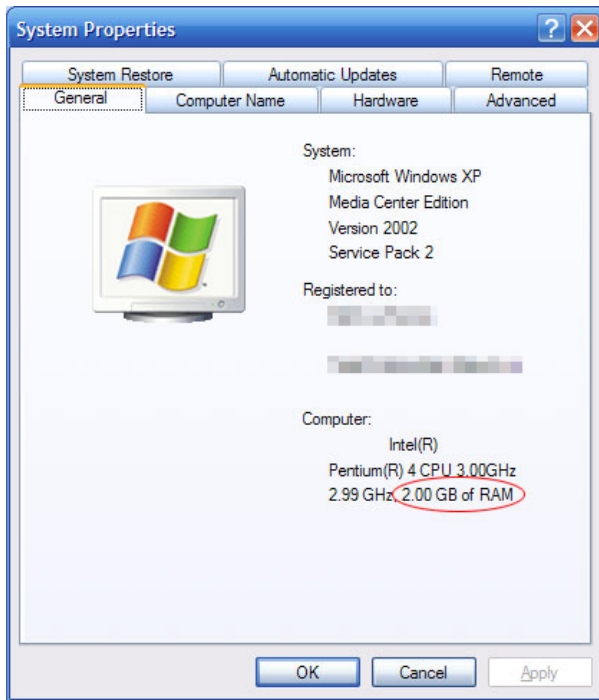
Take one!



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RAM prices drop, time to upgrade?



How Much RAM Is Enough?



Vermont Computing Designs Webpages!

Acer Buys 75 Percent of Packard Bell

Instant Messaging Attacks Get Nastier

Vol 8 Issue 2 Jan. Part 2 Newsletter

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VCI News

Do you enjoy our monthly newsletter? Of course you do! So we are rolling out another feature on our website to help keep you up to date with tech savvy info, a Vermont Computing Inc., blog!

Our president and CEO, Jeremy Lesniak, has recently begun writing a technology column for the Montpelier Bridge. Jeremy says it's something he's wanted to do for a while is very excited about. His articles will also be appearing in the Vermont Computing Inc., blog. You can see a preview of it here:

<http://blog.vermontcomputing.com/>

In other news, do you have a small or large business? Are you a municipality, or individual in need of a

redesign of your existing website or an entirely new site? Are you interested in having a professional web design team at your disposal? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we have some good news for you. Vermont Computing Inc., designs, codes, and hosts websites! Let us take care of your total website needs. From creating an effective visual design to coding back end functionality, to server-side blogging, and even MySpace skinning, our professional web designers and coders will work with you to develop a site that's exactly what you're looking for. Let Vermont Computing design an appealing, intuitive, streamlined web site that effectively conveys your organization's message to the public.

Headlines

Acer Buys 75 Percent of Packard Bell

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/142049/acer_buys_75_percent_of_packard_bell.html

Taiwanese PC vendor Acer has purchased 75 percent of the parent company of European electronics maker Packard Bell for US\$45.8 million, Acer said in a statement to the Taiwan Stock Exchange Thursday.

The deal effectively seals Acer's bid to keep Chinese rival Lenovo from acquiring Packard Bell and gaining a foothold in Europe, where Acer enjoys strong sales.

Acer made the purchase with the help of another company it acquired recently, Gateway. The U.S. company held the right to counter any offer for Packard Bell if it entered into talks with a third party, which Packard Bell did by speaking with Lenovo. In October, Gateway made a binding offer to buy shares from the largest shareholder in PB Holdings Co., Packard Bell's parent company.

That deal went through Wednesday, the Acer statement said. The company purchased 500 common shares of PB Holdings, in addition to 30,000 Class B convertible preferred equity certificates (CPECs) and 7,000 class C CPECs.

Stock market analysts have argued that buying Packard Bell is a waste of time for Acer because the company is already strong in Europe. But industry researchers, and Forrester in particular, argue the move staved off a Lenovo ploy that might have hurt Acer in there.

Acer bought Gateway last year for US\$710 million.

Instant Messaging Attacks Get Nastier

<http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,142039-c.instantmessaging/article.html>

Attacks on instant messaging systems continued to grow more sophisticated and dangerous in January, according to Akonix, a vendor of messaging security systems.

The company tracked 14 new attacks on IM systems in January, finding that while the number was relatively low, the attacks are getting better at targeting users.

IM attacks are a relatively recent phenomenon, but have grown drastically in number in recent months. In July Akonix said the number of threats over the past 12 months was up 78 percent on the previous year.

New IM worms identified in January include MSNChristmas, MSNVB, Perin and Raiodin, Akonix said.

Perin is one of the nastiest of the lot, spreading via a link to contacts on MSN and AIM networks and installing a backdoor server on infected machines.

"Although the number of IM attacks in January 2008 is somewhat low... we are continuing to see an increase in the intensity of malicious online activity," said Akonix vice president of marketing Don Montgomery, in a statement.

Over the past year multi-stage IM attacks have begun surfacing, delivering malicious code that in turn downloads other code, he said.

Another trend is two-stage attacks, where the second stage is the downloading of a Trojan that waits for users to log into specific banking sites to activate a key-logging program, Montgomery said.

In addition, there are multi-vector attacks where a malicious URL may be delivered by IM but propagated using email or come in via email and go out over IM. And attacks focused on consumer services AOL, MSN and Yahoo, are beginning to span networks, Akonix said.

Attacks over peer-to-peer networks are also a growing problem, Akonix said, with 14 new P2P attacks surfacing in January.

A report by network monitoring vendor Tiversa last year found contractors and U.S. government employees were sharing hundreds of secret documents on peer-to-peer networks.

Jeremy's Tech Tip - Time to Upgrade



Has your old computer lost its get up and go? Or perhaps you've just invested in a brand spankin' new PC and you're thinking life is good... until you try playing a game over the Net, or you want to open four applications at once. "But I have a new

computer," you say. "It should be lightning fast!" Just because you have the latest, doesn't mean it's the greatest. Help is easy and relatively inexpensive: upgrade the memory.

With RAM pricing at a low right now, there couldn't be a better time to upgrade your PC's RAM.

What are the benefits of upgrading your computers memory?

Upgrading your memory is typically the easiest and least expensive way to upgrade your computer for a significant boost in performance. The computer's RAM memory is its workspace, or where all of the instructions it needs to act on are stored temporarily. Think of the RAM as the desk you use to sort through your work. If the size of that desk is small, your efficiency is limited in comparison to a larger desk that allows you to work more effectively and efficiently. Similarly, a computer with more RAM can work more efficiently because it does not need to retrieve information from the hard disk drive as often. A memory upgrade is particularly helpful for users who work with large files, have more than one program open at one time, or use memory-intensive applications such as games or graphics and video editing software.

Take a glance at what a memory upgrade can do for you

- Smoother multitasking
- Faster Web surfing
- Enhanced printing
- More efficient video editing
- Optimized Windows XP/Vista processing
- Spectacular gaming
- Enhanced multimedia presentations
- Efficient networking

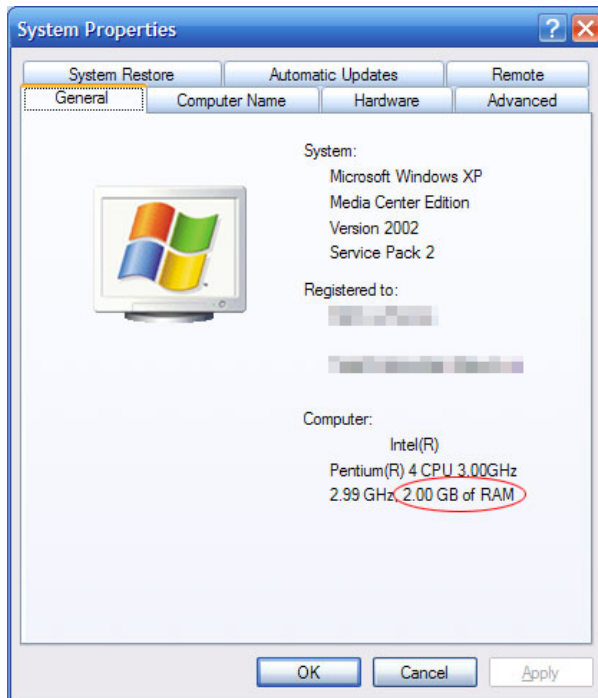
How do you know it's time for a memory upgrade?

There are several signs indicating it may be time to

upgrade your memory. If you see your mouse pointer turn into an hourglass for significant periods of time, if you hear your hard drive working, or if your computer seems to work more slowly than you expect, the reason is probably insufficient memory. When physical memory is insufficient, the system uses Hard Disk Space as memory. This is called "Virtual Memory". Since access time of Physical memory is in tens of NanoSeconds and Access time of Hard Disk is in MilliSeconds, the system slows down considerably.

How much Ram does my computer have?

Find your My Computer icon. Right-click it, and then left click on Properties. In the screen that comes up, in a section called Computer it should say how much memory you have. In this example, this computer has



2GB (2048 MB) of RAM.

How Much RAM Is Enough?

It depends upon what you are using your computer for and what operating system you are using. You will also be limited by some physical factors like how many RAM slots you have on your motherboard, what RAM you currently have, and what is the maximum amount of RAM supported by your motherboard. A good rule of thumb is to put in as much as you can afford, up to the maximum supported by your system.

Issues to consider before buying RAM : (cont. page 4)

- How many memory sockets are open? If there are none open, you will have to replace your current RAM with higher capacity ones.

- What type of memory sockets are open? SIMMs? DIMMs? The form factor is important for choosing the right RAM. Also, putting SIMMs into a board that is currently using DIMMs may result in speed compromises.

- What kind of memory are you currently using? SDRAM does not mix with EDO DRAM, and few other types don't mix at all.

- How much money are you willing to spend? SIMMs/DIMMs come in several speed grades, each at



different price levels. It may be more cost effective to buy one large chip instead of several small ones, or vice versa.

- Determine if you need to buy your RAM in pairs.

- What maximum amounts of RAM/Cache does your motherboard support?

Buying more memory is one of the easiest, cheapest, and most effective ways of improving your computer performance.

When you decide it's time to add some performance to your machine, be sure to bring your PC in to us at Vermont Computing Inc. for your memory upgrade. Our technicians can take the guesswork out of finding the right kind of RAM in the right amount for your system, and will advise you on what will be the best performance-to-value for you. -END

<http://www.computermemoryupgrade.net/how-much-ram-is-enough.html>

Shutdown - Memory issues

(from: http://www.rinkworks.com/stupid/cs_email.shtml)

* Me: "How much RAM do you have?"

* Friend: "Not that much; I own an old computer. I guess about 4 gigabytes."

* Me: "Uhuh, and what kind of CPU?"

* Friend: "32 megabytes."

* Customer: "Do you know about this RAM stuff?"

* Tech Support: "Yes sir, I can help you with RAM."

* Customer: "Well, your program uses 12 grams of RAM, and this computer you gave me only has 10 grams of RAM, so you need to send me another 4 grams of RAM."

* Tech Support: "Uh, sir, that computer has plenty of RAM to run the program."

* Customer: "Just send me the grams of RAM I've asked for!"

* Customer: "Do you people sell them megas?"

* Salesperson: "Uh, sure, how much do you need, sir?"

* Customer: "100!"

* Salesperson: "I can only give you 64."

* Customer: "Well, can't you throw in 26 more?"

A woman brought her Macintosh LC520 into my shop to have more memory added. This was all fine, but she said she the computer kept running out of memory at startup. I found this to be rather interesting and decided to fire it up at the counter while she watched.

After plugging in the computer to the wall and a keyboard and mouse I hit the power button. The computer sounded to life and the screen lit with the "Welcome to Macintosh" box on screen. This was immediately replaced by the Mac/OS picture

and a status bar that was progressing as the extensions loaded. As the bar approached the end she said, "See the memory is all full." I looked at her rather confused and asked where she would have gotten that idea. Apparently one of the know-nothings at the local computer superstore had said that that was what the progress bar meant.

A customer called in and said he needed to speak to a tech immediately. I asked him what the problem was and that I might be able to help. He said, "Are the SIMM slots located in the back of the computer?" I asked him if he needed help installing the chips. He said, "No. I installed them and the computer just isn't recognizing them." I said to him, "Where did you install the chips?" He said, "I removed my sound card and put them in there."

* Customer: "You people owe me a new computer."

* Tech Support: "You're having trouble with your computer? What seems to be the problem?"

* Customer: "Well, I bought some memory from you people, and ever since I installed it into my computer, it's been doing nothing but making grinding noises, and nothing works anymore!"

* Tech Support: "Grinding noises?? It shouldn't be doing that!"

* Customer: "I know that! That's why you people owe me a new computer, and I'm going to charge you for lost downtime and my inconvenience."

Grinding noises from SIMMs? This was a new one.

* Tech Support: "Sir, did you install those chips yourself or did someone do it for you?"

* Customer: "I'm not an idiot! I did it myself. I put them right in that slot in the front of the computer, smart aleck."