

HTV Spot for 05/08/06

UPGRADE VRS NEW

First off lets start by trying to avoid the upgrade all together. What I mean by that is do a little research before buying to determine your needs for the next three years. In most cases it is much easier to buy the components when ordering the PC than to add it later. Pinnacle Computer Services, Inc. is a Dell solution provider we provide a free upgrade consultation service to our customers.

Before you spend a single dollar on new hardware for your old PC, take a few minutes to determine if the outcome is worth it.

Many home PC users are shocked to find that the only computer component that holds its value over time is the software! A computer is not like a car (even though you can pay as much for one) and it will very rarely make sense to invest over \$250.00 in upgrading a PC that's over two years old.

With that said there are a few sensible upgrades you can make for under \$250.

Memory

Additional Hard Drive

DVD, DVDR and CDRW

You should look at each PC component individually to decide the pros and cons of an upgrade, but the first step should always be looking at new PC pricing. Most manufactures will void or partially void the warranty if the upgrade is not preformed to there specs with the approved parts.

If you can buy a brand-new PC, with the latest motherboard and memory technology, a good mid-range CPU and a reasonable set of drives for less than \$500 (and you usually can), it should make you think twice about dumping half as much into something without a warranty.

The greatest risk in attempting to upgrade your PC is that you can cause damage to the PC. This can be avoided as long as you take the proper precautions when handling them. Educate yourself on static electricity the biggest culprit to damaging parts during an upgrade.

Far more likely than damaging the computer is the risk that the upgrade won't work, and you'll be out some money and time. You may be unable to install any more memory on your particular motherboard, a new adapter could be incompatible, or you could run into a BIOS or operating system limit that requires obscure software patching to overcome.

Also, small footprint PCs may be lacking the physical infrastructure to accept an upgrade, either no available motherboard bus slots or no mounting location for new drives.

The upside to upgrading your PC is if you are happy with it but for one problem, such as, lack of hard drive space, the need for a network adapter or a CD recorder, you might get away with a moderately priced upgrade and end up happy for years to come. As long as you go into the process with you're the proper knowledge, you won't end up surprised, even if you end up disappointed.

In most cases if you own a PC that is more than 2 years old it is not cost effective to upgrade. You should really start planning for replacement. The speed at which technology is changing is just amazing.