



GUERRILLA BRIEFS

UPGRADE, REBUILD, OR CLEAN?

It's been a while since your last computer purchase, and it's showing its age. Should you try and squeeze a little more life out of it, or cut your losses? We'll help you weigh your options.

UPGRADE

The most sure-fire way to improve your computing experience is to purchase a new computer, transferring over your applications and data.

THE GOOD

It will run faster. With a new, faster processor and more memory there's no doubt you'll be zipping from web site to web site and enjoying games faster than ever.

You'll have a spare. The old computer can be handed down to family member or coworker.

More stable. While not crashproof, Windows XP is better than previous versions.

Safe transition. Your old computer can be kept in current state until comfortable that all data is moved.

THE BAD

Additional upgrades. Your new computer may not run your older software or peripherals.

THE UGLY

New computer (starts at ~\$400)
Data transfer (varies depending on content)
New software (antivirus, etc) and peripherals (floppy drives, usb printers, etc)

CONSIDER AN UPGRADE WHEN

- ..you have the money to spend.
- ..your existing computer is particularly old. If it's been over two years, you would probably benefit from a refresh.

REBUILD

By wiping your system clean and reinstalling the operating system and critical applications, your computer will feel like new.

THE GOOD

It should run faster. Even without any new hardware, just having a computer unencumbered with excessive applications or drivers can make a big difference.

THE BAD

Hope you saved all your disks. Make sure all reinstallation media and programs are available!

Your backup is critical. A rebuild erases everything off your computer; so if you don't make sure you have everything copied to backup media, you could lose valuable data.

THE UGLY

Reinstall of operating system (1 hr+)
Back up and restore of data (varies depending on content)

CONSIDER A REBUILD WHEN

- ..your computer is fairly recent
- ..you haven't installed many applications. A fully loaded system can take quite a bit of time to get reinstalled.

CLEAN

Deleting unused or malicious applications could save you the hassle of rebuilding, but when the dust settles, you may not notice a difference..

THE GOOD

No juggling data. Nothing on your system is getting wiped out, so it carries the smallest risk of losing critical data

No application reinstalls. You won't need to hunt down your original installation media

THE BAD

Cleaning sessions can take considerable time and yield little benefit.

It's risky. You may be left with new problems from the accidental removal of essential files.

THE UGLY

We're talking pure labor. Depending on the extent of the cleanup, it can take anywhere from 30 minutes to 3 hours.

CONSIDER CLEANING WHEN

- ..you're missing your original installation disks
- ..you have many applications with data everywhere
- ..you're strapped for cash