

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About...

# COMPUTERS

...but were afraid to ask...

## The Good News...

**Cost Effective** - Correctly used, today's computers can pay for themselves in months. Money can be saved on printing, accounting, employee time, etc.

**Online** - The Internet (World Wide Web) has become an extremely important means of information exchange and worldwide communication. An estimated 45 million people presently "surf the Net".

**Massive Storage** - The average computer can hold an enormous amount of information. The complete texts of a large library can easily fit onto new hard drives.

**Power** - New computers have incredible speed and power. Comparing new Pentiums against the massive NASA computers used for the Apollo moon flights would be like comparing a Ferrari with a VW bug.

**User Friendly** - Windows programs are easier to learn than older, more complicated programs.

**Time Saving** - A good software, like Quicken, can help you reconcile a confusing bank statement in a matter of minutes. Turbo Tax can tame a ferocious tax return in only a few hours.

**Economical** - Computer prices have dropped through the floor. Today a new, high quality computer can be purchased for under \$1,000.00

**Rebuildable** - Want to make your computer better, stronger, faster? Newer computers can be upgraded quickly and inexpensively.

**Satisfaction** - The feeling you get when you finally learn and understand your computer is worth the time and effort invested. Take the time to learn - you'll be glad you did!

### Official Disclaimer



Statements made here are strictly the opinions of the author and not to be taken too seriously.

## The Bad News...

**Confusing** - Unfortunately, an untrained user can spend more time trying to print an envelope than it would take to type it by hand.

**Overwhelming** - The Internet was originally organized by the government, planned by the military and designed by computer nerds. Need I say more?

**Mysterious** - As hard drives grow, so does the size of your favorite software package. It's a little mind-boggling when a hard drive that can hold the entire Library of Congress is suddenly full!

**Power Outage** - Without the proper precautions a common electrical "spike" can send your speed-of-light computer into a black hole. A blackout can turn your 1995 business records into mush.

**User frustrating** - While it is easier to use computers now, "user friendly" is still a laughable term. Most computer users have made at least one death threat against an intolerant "user friendly" computer.

**Time Wasting** - Do you know how many hours can be spent on computer solitaire? Not since the advent of TV has a machine been able to mesmerize a person so completely.

**Esoteric** - What kind of computer do you need? What is a "Pentium"? What does Windows 95 do? Is it "good"? Deciding on the "right" computer is definitely not a simple task.

**Return on Investment** - If you bought a new computer two years ago, don't be surprised if you can only get pennies-on-the-dollar for your old hardware when you upgrade.

**Sanity** - Using a computer program for the first time can be hazardous to your mental health. Take your time. Ask a friend or consultant *before* you become frustrated. You'll save a lot of time this way.



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