

## **You have now have your new computer – what next?**

Over the last couple of months or so, we have covered buying a new computer and this month I thought we would consider what to do next and how will we use our new computer. This article presumes that the buyer has bought or received the new computer and that it was possibly bought for a particular reason and that you all hopefully understand the basics of internet access and email.

If your computer was purchased as an `off the shelf` unit, you will no doubt want to remove some of obsolete software from it and install your own preferred software packages – these choices are yours to make, but you might need some guidance. If you purchased a bespoke computer then hopefully you only have the software on it that you requested pre-purchase.

We have already covered the basic kinds of: protection, maintenance, email, browser, office and other types of software packages in previous articles and so I will not go back over them again here in much detail.

The next thing to seriously consider is, what will I be using my new computer for and how can I make it more useful to me (unless it was purchased for a particular use). The obvious uses are: internet browsing, emails/communication, shopping, banking, researching, education, gaming, designing, printing, photography, other hobbies and various business related uses, the list is endless.

We already covered both email and web browsing in previous articles; but it is well worth going over a few previously covered topics again. You should maybe consider if you will use an email system/provider that is tied to your internet provider (ISP) or to go with a free alternative such as Gmail and Live Mail or subscription based services.

Web browsing is another important use for the computer and there are many different browsers to choose from and I will just list a few here: Microsoft Edge (comes with MS Windows 10), Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and the list goes on. The choice depends upon you and what you want – I would suggest trying a few and finding out for yourselves, because not everyone likes the default one in MS Windows 10, Edge.

Security and protection – this something that some users overlook and others are more concerned about. Should you use free or subscription services, should you use basic anti-virus or full internet protection and lastly, should you use password storage applications or a simple book of passwords and login details? These are all choices that you will or should be considering and everyone has their own opinions about which are best and which they prefer.

Microsoft updates can be a real problem for some computers and not an issue for others. But, they are essentially there to protect the operating system and ultimately to try and prevent security breaches.

Just remember why you purchased the computer in the first place and what you wanted to use it for. Also consider that it will need some kind of maintenance and that could be preventative or repair work – this will be your choice. Remember to always keep your data safe and backed up and make sure that you are both careful with the internet sites you visit and what you download onto your new computer.

There are so many things to consider and I hope that this article has at least presented you with some considerations and some answers now that you have either bought your new computer or are seriously considering the next one. Have fun and enjoy.

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