

Vetech View

Let's Talk Hardware

Vetech Software Services, Inc. (800) 677-8832

Hardware Update

By Matt Sanregret

We get many calls for hardware recommendations. Following is an overview of some current computer hardware products and hardware trends we see as important to you. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions on equipment mentioned in this article. VETECH is also an authorized reseller for all the products listed. Let us know if you would like a current quote for any new equipment.

Desktop/Tower Computer:



Desktop computers are still increasing rapidly in speed and storage capacities with today's top computers having a processor speed of over 3Ghz. The computers we are currently recommending have the following specifications:

- Intel Pentium 4 processor at 2.8Ghz
- 512MB Ram (*for server computers consider upgrade to 1GB RAM*)
- 80GB Serial ATA hard drive
- CD-RW drive, (*Zip 750 drive for extra backup device on Server*)
- Windows XP professional operating system
- 100mbs network card (*1000mbs network starting to become common*)
- Optical mouse (*no roller ball to get dirty!*)

All-in-one Computer:



All-in-one computers are great if you need to put a computer workstation in an area that does not have much space available. Many reception areas or pharmacy areas are excellent targets for an all-in-one computer. An all-in-one computer is typically less than a foot deep and about 15 inches wide. This technology builds the entire computer into a pedestal connected to a flat panel monitor. All-in-one computers offer the same speed and storage capabilities as a standard desktop/tower computer.

Thought for the day: Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

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Please Note:

Vetech will be closed Monday July 5th in honor of Independence Day.

We're on the Web!

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All-in-one computers also help eliminate some of your cable clutter as there is no separate monitor VGA cable, or monitor power cable. You can connect either a standard keyboard and mouse to this computer or a wireless keyboard and mouse to further reduce your cables.

Thin Client Computers



If your computer network has more than 8 workstations, most likely you have a dedicated server computer running special Windows server software. If this is the case, you are a candidate for a special computer called a thin client. A thin client computer has no disk drives, and runs a special version of Windows. A thin client computer is dependant on connecting to a server computer to run applications. Thin client computers offer a lower cost than a typical PC, and also lower maintenance costs as there are no drives (hard, floppy, CD, etc) to fail or outgrow. The disadvantage of thin client computers is that you cannot run any applications locally on them as they don't have any local storage ability.

Tablet Computer:



Tablet computers are getting popular for both large animal/ambulatory practices, as well as small animal clinics. Tablet computers offer both handwriting recognition, as well as voice recognition software as standard functions. Tablet computers also offer a touch screen and stylus pen for easy navigation without a keyboard.

Tablet computers come in two varieties, slate and convertible. A slate model is lightweight easy to carry for long periods of time. However, with a slate model, you will need an external keyboard or docking station to access a keyboard. A convertible model is heavier, but offers the convenience of operating as a standard notebook with a built-in keyboard, or as a true tablet by simply folding the screen down.

Tales From The E-Mail

Three men, one German, one Japanese, and a hillbilly were sitting naked in a sauna. Suddenly there was a beeping sound. The German pressed his forearm and the beep stopped. The others looked at him questioningly.

"That was my pager," he said, "I have a micro chip under the skin of my arm."

A few minutes later a phone rang. The Japanese fellow lifted his palm to his ear. When he finished he explained, "That was my mobile phone. I have a micro chip in my hand."

The hillbilly felt decidedly low tech, but not to be outdone he decided he had to do something just as impressive. He stepped out of the sauna and went to the bathroom. He returned with a piece of toilet paper hanging from his behind. The others raised their eyebrows and stared at him. The hillbilly finally said... "Well, will you look at that, I'm getting a fax."