

## Re: [SLE] looking for advice about laptops

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/SuSE/2004-07/1605.html>

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**Date:** 07/11/04

To: [suse-linux-e@suse.com](mailto:suse-linux-e@suse.com)

Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 14:12:45 -0800

On Friday 09 July 2004 12:52 am, Blue Moose IT Support wrote:

- > *The following website has links to other website where people have*
- > *shared their experiences with putting various linux distros onto*
- > *laptops. It was invaluable to me when I was trying to get my wireless to*
- > *work with my Dell Inspiron 8500. I've got the whole thing working pretty*
- > *well now, except for the damn subfs nonsense.*
- >
- > <http://www.linux-on-laptops.com>
- >
- > *I would recommend you select three different laptops that you think you*
- > *would enjoy owning and then search the above site to see what peoples*
- > *experiences have been.*

But when doing this, remember that people only post about problems, never (or much less frequently) about successes.

I read the linux-sony mailing list ([insue.org](http://insue.org)) and have a high end vaio (desktop substitute with 16inch screen) that I have been running Linux on since SuSe 7.2. With 8.2 everything works and I am having a hard time convincing myself to upgrade to 9.1 just because EVERYTHING works so well.

I use it for Software Development (for Windows world – sigh) and I run Vmware on it so that I can run several (all) versions of windows simultaneously for testing etc. Very cool.

-----MY SUGGESTIONS based on several years of daily laptop / linux usage?

Things to avoid in ANY Linux Laptop purchase:

- 1) External (fire-wire/USB) CD-ROM drives
- 2) Unsupported Wireless (whether built in or add on)
- 3) Anything with the name NVidia on it. (screw 'em till they open source it).
- 4) DO NOT buy with ALL memory slots full unless you positively load it with memory (1 gig or maybe 2). Pay for a bigger mem module to allow one slot open for future. Then go to Crucial.com and get

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it for half the price the laptop vendor wants!

Things to look for:

- 1)Lots of USB ports. 2 is not enough. USB 1.1 is not acceptable any more.
  - 2)Easy access to (replaceable) Hard drives
  - 3)Removable CDROM (for additional battery).
  - 4)Biggest screen you can possibly afford.
- 5)There is one school of thought that you should avoid built-in wireless because you are stuck with it for life. The field is evolving fast and prices are dropping, so pcmcia looks attractive for upgrade purposes.

Ambivalence:

I have never found a use for InfraRed (IR) ports

I have never needed a docking station – more trouble than worth

Track pads and keyboard mice are cute – But gimme a real  
(wireless optical mouse) and let me get some work done.

I have a floppy drive (USB) but NEVER use it. If you can boot  
from cdrom, you don't need one. You can burn a cdrom for  
about 30 cents(us) these days.

Serial ports are falling into disuse these days. YMMV.

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John Andersen Sony Vaio GRXseries.

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- application/pgp-signature attachment: signature