

Re: What do I do with an old laptop?

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mån 2006-02-20 klockan 22:35 -0500 skrev Eric Dunbar:

On 2/20/06, Carthik Sharma <carthik@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I have a very old, Compaq Presario 1245 laptop, with a AMD-k6 333Mhz processor and 128 MB memory (4 gig HDD). Most importantly, perhaps, it does not have a ethernet adapter on it. It does have a PCI card slot, though.

What is the best – or most creative – way to use it around the house? Does anyone have any tips as to what I can do with this laptop and how? Ubuntu runs fine on it.

Would I rather be better off selling it on ebay for the 100-odd dollars the model seems to sell for?

I heard of the picture frame thing on metafilter, but that holds no interest for me.

Expecting some creative suggestions :)

Given that you know it works and you know it works well, I'll offer up the not-so-creative solution of simply keeping it as a backup or as a portable typewriter. You never know when your main machine goes down and you absodesperatolutely need a functioning computer!

Add a USB2 or Firewire PCI card, one with two (or more) ports. connect a network adapter on one port, and an external harddrive on the other, and you have an instant home-network wide file server and backup solution; one that is small, quiet and energy efficient.

Alternatively, or in addition, you can add a webcam, wi-fi or almost anything else through those ports.

Since a laptop is built to be energy efficient and portable, it is great as an always-on small server. And if the battery is still working, it even has its own UPS built right in. The only drawback is cost; you'd

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never buy a new laptop just to have as a server. But if you already have an older one lying around...

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