TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!
Posted by niLdesperandum - 28 May 2009 23:27

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I've always been 'desktopTilDeath', however I'm thinking of turning to the dark-side and purchasing a laptop. I'm off to Plymouth in September as some of you will know, where I'll be starting a Digital Art & Technology course. I'm presently working for my Dad's company doing some graphic design/coding/marketing based work and the programs I need to do that are all on my PC. So, everyday I relentlessly pack up my tower, throw it in the car and go to work =.= It's becoming a real chore, and has opened my eyes with respect to how mobile I'm going to need to be especially doing such a course at uni.

So, I'm here to pick your technical minds, and brilliant minds they are. I don't pretend to know a lot about computer components especially those of a mobile variety, and so I'm going to give you what appears to me to be a lot of numbers and a lot of letters. My Dad bought a top of the range Alienware notebook last year and for years now I've been fixated with alienware both as a brand and for the products they sell (in terms of mobile technologies, desktop processors in laptops and what-not) and seeing as I'm working at the moment and my 21st birthday is coming up, I have quite a budget to work with (for once). Here is my proposed purchase:

M17®

Design & Display: Black Ripley Design

Display: 17-inch WideUXGA 1920 x 1200 LCD (1200p) with Clearview Technology

Graphics Processor : Dual 512MB ATI® Mobility Radeon™ HD 3870 – CrossFireX™ Enabled!

Processor: Intel® Core™ 2 Extreme Quad QX9300 2.53GHz (12MB Cache 1066MHz FSB)

Operating System: Genuine Windows® Vista Ultimate - English

Keyboard Options: Non-Illuminated Keyboard - English

Memory: 4GB Dual Channel DDR3 SO-DIMM at 1067MHz - 2 x 2048MB

System Drive: Single Drive Configuration - 256GB Solid State Drive

Notebook Tuners and Remotes: Internal Digital / Analog TV Tuner with Adapter and Media Center Remote Control

Optical Drives: 8x Dual Layer Burner (DVD±RW, CD-RW)

Wireless Network Card: Internal Intel® Ultimate N 5300 a/b/g/Draft-N Mini-Card with MIMO Technology

Sound Hardware: Internal High-Definition Audio with Surround Sound

Warranty: AlienCare 1-Year Free Phone 24/7 and Collect & Return

All this for a cool 2,675 british pounds. Pricey, yes, worth it? I think so, but what do YOU think?

Thanks guys!

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Re: TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!
Posted by Tunes - 29 May 2009 15:32

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Believe me mate, the 500£ will make a difference in image processing on a mac and that dell you are thinking... and take into account, the pro is cheaper than the alienware thingie

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Re: TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!
Posted by Che ken - 30 May 2009 14:07

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been looking for a gaming laptop myself... not sure which one to get tho

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Re: TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!
Posted by Greenie - 30 May 2009 14:26

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The Alienware brand does charge a premium for the components, also that is more of a desktop replacement, I wouldn't say it was particularly mobile, although it may be enough for you. If you do get that, make sure it comes with Vista 64bit and not the 32bit version.

You can always dual boot, or install windows on a Mac, it's pretty much just like any other home computer (x86, x86-64).

ASUS and MSI also make good 'desktop replacement' laptops that should provide similar specs if you want more options. I would definitely advise against sony laptops, as especially in the UK, they are impossible to get repaired at reasonable prices (you usually have to go to sony, as they dont sell spares to the trade) and their support is horrible.

SSD's do not lose space over time any more than a standard hard disk does, this is done by using an algorithm for wear levelling and block organisation. There is no evidence, but lots of FUD about SSD disks and problems with longevity.

For laptops, all I can recommend is finding the best deal you can at the moment on a laptop you like and can get along with in the future. Everything else is just extra.

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Re: TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!

Posted by Che ken - 23 Jun 2009 13:17

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Just bought my laptop, pretty decent secs and a pretty decent price

28c11fpj

Got a question tho. It says Intel Core2 Duo Processor T6400 (2.0 GHz, 800 MHz FSB, 2 MB L2 Cache).

The 2.0 GHz, 800 MHz bit... is that 2.8 MHz, or 2 MHz? Cus I'm thinking of buying Prototype and it requires 2.6 GHz to play on pc

Tha's the only part of my laptop that might not be good enough for it, everything else is good enough lol

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Re: TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!

Posted by VoGon - 23 Jun 2009 13:54

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Its 2000 MHz mate, the 800 MHz its the speed it speaks with the Northbridge. Also known as Front Side Bus, or FSB for short

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Front_side_bus" onclick="window.open(this.href);return false;

Prototype requires 2.6 Core2Duo? or just 2.6 GHz processor? Remember that your C2D is 2 CPU's at 2000 MHz each, not that you can think of it as at 4 GHz but more that a single processor at 2.6 deffo.

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Re: TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!

Posted by Tunes - 23 Jun 2009 14:07

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Che, 2.0 Ghz is the core clock speed, the 800 is the Bus speed, the speed it has to comunicate with the stuff on the bus (ram, sata controllers and graphics)

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Re: TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!

Posted by liger - 23 Jun 2009 16:20

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Che ken wrote:

Just bought my laptop, pretty decent secs and a pretty decent price

16', not good enough for porn

masturbation is not "secs"

3aewjqw6

Got a question tho. It says Intel Core2 Duo Processor T6400 (2.0 GHz, 800 MHz FSB, 2 MB L2 Cache).

The 2.0 GHz, 800 MHz bit... is that 2.8 MHz, or 2 MHz? Cus I'm thinking of buying Prototype and it requires 2.6 GHz to play on pc

Tha's the only part of my laptop that might not be good enough for it, everything else is good enough lol

its 2GHZ and the bus is on 800mhz, which tells u nothing coz it idid u would be asking

in short 2ghz is pretty good

the 2,6 GHZ reference is for old pentium 4 pc's, so CPU-wise u should be fine.

the part that will be holding u down is ur GPU, like it always is in laptops. Its the trade off u make when u go for mobility

seems like a decent laptop altho im not sure about price, havent been following

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Re: TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!
Posted by liger - 23 Jun 2009 16:22

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i tell u the technical support @ twk is faster than anywhere else

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Re: TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!
Posted by Che ken - 23 Jun 2009 16:48

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lol of course it is liger, and it actually HELPS 😕

VoGon wrote:

Prototype requires 2.6 Core2Duo? or just 2.6 GHz processor? Remember that your C2D is 2 CPU's at 2000 MHz each, not that you can think of it as at 4 GHz but more that a single processor at 2.6 deffo.

Steam wrote:

Prorotype System Requirements

OS: Windows® XP (with Service Pack 3) or Windows Vista®

Processor: Intel® Core™2 Duo 2.6 GHz or AMD Athlon™ 64 X2 4000+ or better

Memory: Vista 2 GB RAM / XP 1 GB RAM

Graphics: All NVIDIA® GeForce® 7800 GT 256 MB and better chipsets. All ATI Radeon™ X1800 256 MB and better chipsets

DirectX®: Microsoft DirectX 9.0c

Hard Drive: 8GB of free hard drive space

Sound: DirectX® 9.0c compliant sound card

So my laptop can handle it, but might fail GPU wise?

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Re: TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!
Posted by Tunes - 23 Jun 2009 16:55

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you'll prolly have to play with a few graphical effects off...

Usually developers don't develop games for laptops.

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Re: TURNING TO THE DARK-SIDE!
Posted by Tunes - 23 Jun 2009 16:55