
Subject: Buying a Notebook Computer

Posted by [terminator 101](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 01:05:15 GMT

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I am going to College(for Computer Programming), and I will probably need a Notebook Computer for my studies, but I also want to use it for gaming(because my current computer is slow). So I was wondering if any one could tell me if the Video card called "Graphics Media Accelerator 900" is any good for games(most Notebooks have this Video card). On website <http://www.xbitlabs.com/articles/chipsets/display/i915g.html> I found some interesting facts, but I would also like to know what Other people think of it. I am asking about this Video Card, because Notebooks that have better graphics cards Mostly Cost too much and/or have low battery life spam(I think that 3 hours or less is not enough for a Notebook).

One more think, which brand would you recommend? I heard that Acer makes very good Notebooks

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer

Posted by [Aprime](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 01:34:47 GMT

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Answer these questions first:

- Are you looking for long battery life and portability?
- Are you looking forward to buy a Centrino-based laptop?
- What is your budget?
- Could you name the games you'd like to play on it?
- For how many years would you be using this computer? (assuming you won't break it or you won't run into problems with it)

About that chipset, don't expect much from Intel's graphic 'accelerators', they fail.

You should look at ATI's Xpress 200 series chipset instead, it would do a pretty good job with games (Google for reviews and benchmarks, it outperforms this Intel Chipset)

It has the X300's core but uses shared memory, 128MB of the RAM you'll have, to be exact.

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer

Posted by [csskiller](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 02:25:41 GMT

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funny I was looking for notebooks on ebay today and I found some pretty kick ass ones (note the prices are a bit high imo)

http://cgi.ebay.ca/AMD-64-3000-LAPTOP-17-SCREEN-ATI-9700-128-512MB-40GB_W0QQitemZ5230433366QQcategoryZ177QQrdZ1QQcmdZVie wItem

http://cgi.ebay.ca/AMD-64-3400-LAPTOP-17-SCREEN-ATI-128-1GB-60-DVDRW-WIFI_W0QQitemZ6793711411QQcategoryZ56108QQrdZ1QQcmdZViewItem
http://cgi.ebay.ca/AMD-64-3700-SAGER-LAPTOP-17-ATI-9700-128-2GB-60-DVDRW_W0QQitemZ5229038814QQcategoryZ177QQrdZ1QQcmdZViewItem

too bad i don't have money

[edit]oh wait I forgot, there's no OS so these are kinda useless

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [terminator 101](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 02:37:29 GMT
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Comrade wrote on Mon, 15 August 2005 21:34-Are you looking for long battery life and portability?

YesQuote:-Are you looking forward to buy a Centrino-based laptop?

Not sure what do you mean by that

Quote:-What is your budget?

I Live in Canada, so I will tell you that I don't want to spend more than 1600 Canadian Dollars.

Quote:-Could you name the games you'd like to play on it?

Hmm, I am not exactly sure, but probably some newer games. Like Thief 3, Warcraft 3, Aliens Vs Predator 2, Renegade, Serious Sam 1&2, (maybe) Half Life 2, and some others.

Quote:-For how many years would you be using this computer? (assuming you won't break it or you won't run into problems with it)

Well as long as possible

Quote:About that chipset, don't expect much from Intel's graphic 'accelerators', they fail.

You sure about that?

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [JPNOD](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 08:05:49 GMT
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Go with a Centrino platform. But get a mobility radeon/Nvidia geforce.

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [Aprime](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 13:57:28 GMT
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JPNOD wrote on Tue, 16 August 2005 04:05Go with a Centrino platform. But get a mobility radeon/Nvidia geforce.

Actually if he's looking forward to do gaming with it I suggest he goes with a Turion, AMD's power combined with Intel's mobility.

http://1toppc.com/Merchant2/merchant.mv?Screen=PROD&Product_Code=A6U&Category_Code=Notebook

Go with an MT one (25W), I ordered one from them already, it has shipped within' 3 business days.

Contact them if you want faster shipping, same thing if you'd like a video card (they have Geforce GOs for their Centrinos in stock), and tell them I referred you to them if your choice is definitive about them.

Note that they're out of additional primary batteries for now.

... Otherwise go with a Centrino, they're the least-rare out there.

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [Renerage](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 22:32:51 GMT
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usually, if you go to a computer store, tell them the games you want to play and whatnot, they will look at the minimum requirements and go from there, 1600 will buy you a DECENT laptop though.

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [terminator 101](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 03:13:20 GMT
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People, I did a lots of research, and I found 2 good (and affordable) choices:

Choice 1

ACER ASPIRE (not sure about the rest of the name)

- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 750 (2MB L2 cache, 1.86GHz, 533MHz FSB);
- 1GB (512/512) DDR2 533 SDRAM;
- 100GB hard drive;
- integrated DVD-Dual drive (DVD+/-RW);
- 15.4" WXGA (1280 x 800) TFT display with Acer® CrystalBrite Technology;
- ATI® MOBILITY™ RADEON® X600 graphics;
- 802.11b/g WLAN, 10/100 LAN, V.92 modem

4-Cell Lithium Battery

Price: 1500\$(Canadian Dollars(taxes included))

Choice 2

ACER ASPIRE 1694WLMI CENTRINO

- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740 (2MB L2 cache, 1.73GHz, 533MHz FSB);
- 512MB (256/256) DDR2 533 SDRAM;
- 80GB hard drive;
- integrated DVD-Dual drive (DVD+/-RW);
- 15.4" WXGA (1280 x 800) TFT display, Acer® CrystalBrite Technology ;

- Intel® Graphics Media Accelerator 900;
- 802.11b/g WLAN, 10/100 LAN, V.92 modem
Price: 1861\$(Canadian Dollars(taxes included))

Unfortunately it does not say the battery life, but I am guessing that 1 has longer battery life than 2.

About the price, hmm, well the more expensive one seems better for gaming, but the low battery life is not very good thing. The Cheaper des not seem as good, but the longer battery life makes it better choice(I think).

[EDIT]: I accidentally switched the prices

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [meee2yo](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 05:34:44 GMT
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I bought a month ago a HP with the AMD 64 bit chipset. I love it. I hate laptops, have several older ones that have various chipset's in them, from celeron (going into the trash), to centrino. the amd pretty much has been the fastest laptop that I have used. nothing compared to my desktops, but I only use them when I have to.

was looking into a tablet Pc, but changed my mind.

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [JPNOD](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 08:06:03 GMT
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Best choice

ACER ASPIRE (not sure about the rest of the name)
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 750 (2MB L2 cache, 1.86GHz, 533MHz FSB);
- 1GB (512/512) DDR2 533 SDRAM;
- 100GB hard drive;
- integrated DVD-Dual drive (DVD+/-RW);
- 15.4" WXGA (1280 x 800) TFT display with Acer® CrystalBrite Technology;
- ATI® MOBILITY™ RADEON® X600 graphics;
- 802.11b/g WLAN, 10/100 LAN, V.92 modem
4-Cell Lithium Battery
Price: 1500\$(Canadian Dollars(taxes included))

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [JPNOD](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 08:10:49 GMT
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lol.. just read some thread's not only the Centrino has longer battery life, its faster in gaming too.

here's a example

http://www.gamepc.com/labs/view_content.asp?id=turion64&page=7&MSCSProfile=95385A1F52DEA1A229D5B375420544648D848B760E54BCC5EAD5939178C6A5955DD5A3DFA61BBEC4FD9B79944D539545CDF4AA37958DF5DFA269E7C93996857F74AC350AB8684EAC7BE7060B168CA52999CAD504329A75B9246C7028DE5B9D2BF68166856550B77E6442FBF5E7934CCB9329E8EE8DBF0546ED90701839C97D62365F499F64E9124

A Pentium M@ 2.0 faster then a AMD 3400

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [JPNOD](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 08:16:36 GMT
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Comrade wrote on Tue, 16 August 2005 09:57JPNOD wrote on Tue, 16 August 2005 04:05Go with a Centrino platform. But get a mobility radeon/Nvidia geforce.

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Note that they're out of additional primary batteries for now.

... Otherwise go with a Centrino, they're the least-rare out there.

No offence or anything but the Dominating Desktop PC= AMD 64
Dominating laptop's = Intel

Intel long battery life, and faster in gaming.

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [Aprime](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 10:32:35 GMT
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Wtf, these benchmarks are so biased.

The Centrino does NOT beat the lesser-consuming (meaning it's made for laptops) Athlon nor the Turion in terms of gaming, period.

There are only a few thrustworthy benchmarking websites out there, and this one isn't part of them.

The Pentium M Dothan (Centrino platfrom) that consumes the less (if I recall) consumes 21W, while the Turion MTs consume 25W.

But, I think the choice JPNOD said would be best choice is fine, except...
4-Cell Lithium Battery

That sucks, that's not even 3 hours of battery life.

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [terminator 101](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 15:44:39 GMT
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Whoops, I made bad mistake and switched the prices. So JPNOD and everione else, just so you know, the First Choice Costs 1861\$ and the second choice costs 1500\$. And the second choice has 4 cell Lithium Ion Battery. I don't know what battery has the first choice.

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [terminator 101](#) on Sat, 20 Aug 2005 00:08:21 GMT
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O.K I found a great deal for Computer
But I am not sure about 3 hour battery life. I don't know if it will be enough for my studies, but I am confident that it will. And when I buy a second battery it will be all right.
So, what do you people think? Is 3 hours enough when you are on College/univeristy?

Subject: Re: Buying a Notebook Computer
Posted by [Aprime](#) on Sat, 20 Aug 2005 15:32:08 GMT
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No, unless you're planning on staying in your room all the time.
Getting an extra battery could do the job, though.
