
Subject: Recycle your old PC

Posted by [reborn](#) on Sat, 22 Nov 2008 22:26:53 GMT

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I feel like a massive ramble, so here goes...

This year for christmas I'm having a really large family event, we decided that as some people have just bought houses, flats, are temping etc etc and money for some people is an issue, that secret santa would be a great way of making sure people don't have to spend allot of money, but yet every gets a present and it's half decent because they're spending there budget on one gift.

I'm getting my brother-in-law's gift and I wanted to make it a good one. The limit for the spend is just 40 pound sterling, so I came a bit stuck for ideas.

Then it hit me... Ouch that hurt

He's been saying for a few months now that he wants a PC or a laptop, something to access the internet at home (he recently moved in with his girlfriend and is missing the essentials).

Now I know you can't just get a new PC for 40 pounds, but I had two old PC's lying around and wondered if I could make something for 40 pounds.

After canabilising the two old computers and rummaging through my crate of old PC perhiperals containing everything from an iomega zipdisk drive to a pentium 2 CPU and heatsink (actually they wasn't separate back then, just kinda moulded into one) I salvaged the best parts for a rig and came up with the following:

160GB Maxtor SATA Hard Drive

AMD 2800xp CPU

Two lot's of OCZ's PC 3700 Dual CH Platinum Edition 3-3-2-8 RAM, giving it a healthy 1 Gig

A DVD re-writable drive and a DVD read drive, thought I might aswell add both

Radeon 9600XT 256mb Graphics card

Antec 480 watt PSU

ABIT KV7-V Mother board

And some old CPU fan I forgot about that looks like a jumbo jet engine

Not bad really considering it was just lying around. The only problem was the cases. Both cases looked like crap, I had an Antec (I think) see through clear acrylic case, but with dirty stains all over it and it just looked rough, and the other one, well.. That was never going to work, I remember using it a few years ago and the side to it had broken. I used a desktop fan to blow air into it at the time because it was hotter then Satan's nut sack. I'm quite happy though, it had all the parts I needed to started making it, albeit with no case. Although that did me a favour really, I could stuff together this modest PC and sling it inside a nice new case, making it look fantastically shiny and glimmering, blowing my whole 40 pound budget on the case.

I assembled it all, deciding to use the acrylic case for the time being, just to have something to work with. I got a bunch of software ready for it, including windows XP, Microsoft office, photoshop and some other bits and pieces I thought he might like (these pieces of software didn't count towards budget, read into that what you will, but hey... I'm on a mission here). I even had

renegade ready thinking if I installed it for him I make make a fan out of him!

I flicked the switch, actually that's a lie, there was no switch, I had to touch the pin of the motherboard with a screwdriver to start it up (don't try that at home kids), and decided instead of changing the boot order to stick XP on, I'd let it fire up and see what I had on the drive. I was a little optimistic because too much hard ware change and windows normally gets nasty on you, but it booted up fine. This was more due to it being a Linux OS rather than a windows one, and I had a breif 10 minutes looking at some old files and smiling with an air of reminisance about me. I was concerned though that during the boot there was some flickering and stuff on the screen...

I opened the DVD drive and popped in the windows XP disk, restarted and changed the boot order to read the DVD drive first.

It got to the set-up part and all was going fine, until it just turned off. I was dissapointed, but thought I'd try again.. It failed again and I was sad that it didn't even get to the part where you choose which partition you install to.

After allot of messing around and switching parts for about two hours I found the culprit. It was the graphics card. I was pretty annoyed, while he isn't a gamer, and would most likely only use it to surf the net and play perhaps a bit of championship manager on it, I though the card would be nice as I played renegade on it for a few months with no problem at all.

So now you're up-to-date, my dilemma is I can only spend 40 pound on this project, and I have to get an AGP graphics card that doesn't suck, and a case. While I could just buy whatever, no one would really know, It's now become a bit of a challenge to me.

If anyone has a link to AGP graphics cars that are reasonably priced, and around the same spec as the radeon 9600XT 256mb, I would appreciate it. The same goes for a black PC case, I did want one with a clear side so you could see the jumbo jet engine cooler in it, and some old fans that have colored lights inside them, but I don't think i can get that on my budget now.

Also, if anyone has a decent AGP graphics card and would like to let me take it off your hands, I will happily trade for it.

Whilst I'm sure you wouldn't be interested in the old technology of lomega zip drives and other junk in my crate (which annoyingly enough contains graphics cards, just bloody old matrox ones) I do have something that might perk interest.

I found two hard ware key loggers in there, one is a ps2, and the other is a USB. They both work, I've just checked them and I remember that the ps2 one stores 2mb, and the USB one stores 4mb. This may seem small, but it's actually enough to store like a years worth of key strokes, or something like that.

I looked on ebay and the USB version is for sale at 40 pound plus p&p.

Alternatively you could just give it to me

This may seem like a strange thread, but I know you all share a love of computers with me, and I want to beat this challenge.

I encourage others to try have a go at making a PC from old parts yourself. Even if you don't give it to someone else, you could have a nice linux firewall, or perhaps have a go at networking them. If nothing else, you'll get a feeling of naustalga. Please share your experiance if you've had any...

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Caveman](#) on Sat, 22 Nov 2008 22:53:35 GMT
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I have a Nvidia Gefore4 Ti4200 that I used on my P3 733Mhz, then it made home to a AMD Althon 1300+ for a year or so. I then stick it into my old AMD Sempron 3100+. AFAIK it still works. If I find it (pretty sure I know where it is) you are more then welcome to take it off my hands.

PS. <http://www.nvidia.com/page/geforce4ti.html> (AGP 8X)

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Doitle](#) on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 07:42:03 GMT
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This is why I try to grab any computer I can find that people are throwing away. So many times in a pinch I've though oh hey I wonder if that old computer I grabbed has a video card or a this or that which might work! You can never have too many parts. When I accidentally forgot to plugin the HSF on my video card in my server and burned my nice Ti4400, : (I had a crappy PCI GeForce2 from an old dell that fit the bill just perfectly.

I'm actually in a similar boat as your brother in law though. I need a laptop. I do so much moving around of code and projects now that I really need a laptop. Not a nice one just one that can open ultra-edit, write some code and compile. A lady on Craigslist was giving away a free laptop that was pretty recent but had no HD. I emailed them but it was gone already. : (I could have gotten a cheap laptop HD easy... I was pretty upset I missed that deal. If anyone happens to have any leads on a really cheap laptop I'm all ears...

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [reborn](#) on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 09:48:39 GMT
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Caveman wrote on Sat, 22 November 2008 17:53 I have a Nvidia Gefore4 Ti4200 that I used on my P3 733Mhz, then it made home to a AMD Althon 1300+ for a year or so. I then stick it into my old AMD Sempron 3100+. AFAIK it still works. If I find it (pretty sure I know where it is) you are more then welcome to take it off my hands.

PS. <http://www.nvidia.com/page/geforce4ti.html> (AGP 8X)

That's pretty nice of you man. If you don't mind I'll wait a couple of days before confirming because I posted this on another site too. I want to see if anything else comes of it before I waste your time. But I can't see many people being as nice as that. Thanks allot man

Doitle wrote on Sun, 23 November 2008 02:42 This is why I try to grab any computer I can find that people are throwing away. So many times in a pinch I've though oh hey I wonder if that old computer I grabbed has a video card or a this or that which might work! You can never have too many parts. When I accidentally forgot to plugin the HSF on my video card in my server and

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It's been a pretty fun experience so far.. I've kept old PC's to use for other things before, but not really ever cobbled something together from odds and sods. It's pretty satisfying. I really do encourage others to do the same, it's been different to say the least.. I normally buy really expensive components and put together beast machines, so doing it this way has been an eye-opener for me.

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Goztow](#) on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 09:55:34 GMT
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The problem with laptops is tha they're really popular, even the older ones.

Very good read there, Reborn, thanks for that. I cannot help you, unfortunately, as I only use laptops.

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [JPNOD](#) on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 10:40:34 GMT
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New PC's do not have to be expensive, especially if you just run OpenSource software. It really depends on user usage too though.

Intel® Desktop Board D945GCLF = 56eu

Look for one of these add.. 1GB DDR, a Harddrive for 30eu and a nice case with decent CPU for 50eu. Maybe ad a cheap second hand monitor or get a CDROM with that if you do not wish to install from USB.

56
50
30
20 - mouse keyboard./cdrom

then you have yourself a new comp for 150~euro
with exception of new TFT/Monitor.

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [JPNOD](#) on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 10:42:05 GMT
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As for parts I dont throw away anything. Hell a P1 133mhz with 32MB ram can be used as
Web/FTP/Samba/SSH server.

Again this can be done with Open Source software, you dont even have to pay for that.

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 12:57:37 GMT
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Hehe... I'd send you my AGP 8X ATI Radeon 9550 for that keylogger, but the P&P would be
expensive.

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Doitle](#) on Tue, 25 Nov 2008 04:12:47 GMT
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Argh! First I missed that laptop with no HDD and now, I replied FIVE minutes after this next one
went up on Craigslist and missed it... Dell XPS M1530... Almost brand new. Someone got it for
free from their work and a few months later wanted to pass it on. GAR...

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Starbuzz](#) on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 23:35:40 GMT
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Nice story, reborn!

I just love PC's and computers. They are amazing, easy to learn about, and great for modding.

I salvage whatever PC's I can find. Usually after winter, I go around to pick up the used PC's from
garage sales. There is a PC repair shop nearby where I try to get as much parts as possible. It's

amazing how much parts you can salvage...CD-ROM drives, HDD's (usually not that big), video, sound, network cards, also some good TV tuner cards!

Also, sometimes, the cases of these PC's are very very rugged and strong. While they lack the beauty of modern cases, they are very rugged...especially those of the old Gateway tower PC's.

A couple months ago at work, we were disposing off old computers. There were about 12 of them. They were the old white case computers, mostly the now obsolete Dell Optiplex GX 100, and GX 100's like these:

http://www.pcarenahungary.com/pricelist/oriaskep/dell_optiplex_gx110-298.jpg

Anyway, a bright idea popped in my head and I told the IT management that instead of throwing them away, we can rebuild these computers and give them for free for the warehouse workers (who sadly don't make much money and can't really afford comps without managing to miss a few important bills).

The IT director eventually agreed and after getting approval from the higher-ups, it was a go (as long as it did not intrude into my other duties). It felt amazing to turn trash-bound computers into things people can use!

Unfortunately, I was allowed to install only Windows ME (many copies of which were lying around). I put working CD-ROM drives, Floppy drives (!), a network card whenever possible, 256 - 512 MB RAM, and also a modem card. Processors were Pentium III/Celeron! (733 MHz) Finding drivers were a bit hard but Dell has a very nice organized website to download them.

They weren't much but you can go on the internet, check your mails, surf...and that's what the warehouse workers wanted.

In the end, we had to distribute them via some "pick your name from the hat" method...only 12 computers and 30 warehouse employees.

But it was amazing and those who got the PC's were happy...they got back after the weekend saying how they liked the PC's. We also gave along the monitors, keyboards, and mouse and spare sets of speakers, and power and network cables.

Infact just today at work, one guy brought back the PC he won to fix an error which I did.

The company I work for (hopefully a long time) was founded in 1976 and they never threw anything away...they still have LOADS of computer stuff in giant pallets in the warehouse. I wonder how many precious old gems are still escaping my eyes.

That "project" was where I really got to learn a heck of a lot. It felt good too.

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Romaner](#) on Thu, 27 Nov 2008 02:25:59 GMT

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i have 4 old cases in my house still full of old parts... i have already built 1 computer for a buddy of mine, him and his gf had a baby recently and needless to say that cash is an issue. so i was happy to give it to him for a case of beer. which technically wasnt even worth my time but you know...

now i said i would throw something together for another friend of mine that had his computer for over 4 years and its in such a bad shape that i can definety slap something together from the parts i got lying around and it would still be way better than his. but im thinking of charging him quite a bit more since he has no kids, lives at his moms and has a job lol.

Subject: Re: Recyle your old PC
Posted by [reborn](#) on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 15:50:55 GMT
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Many thanks to Caveman for being such a nice guy and sending me his old graphics card for this project. Work is well underway... You can see his card in my right hand, and the broken one in my left.

Times ticking, I really need to get this done soon.

Subject: Re: Recyle your old PC
Posted by [pawky](#) on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 20:26:32 GMT
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That's great! What make is it that Caveman sent you?

Subject: Re: Recyle your old PC
Posted by [reborn](#) on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 23:43:15 GMT
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This one:
<http://www.nvidia.com/page/geforce4ti.html>

Pretty nice of him to send it

Subject: Re: Recyle your old PC
Posted by [pawky](#) on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 00:38:09 GMT
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reborn wrote on Sun, 14 December 2008 17:43 This one:
<http://www.nvidia.com/page/geforce4ti.html>

Pretty nice of him to send it

Definitely...that's a good card. Caveman has a big heart.

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Caveman](#) on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 18:44:05 GMT
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Well I was more than happy to send... I don't have any AGP board laying around anymore so I had no use for it.

Btw, You really shouldn't be walking on carpet when you have socks on while holding them cards... You will shock them, especially since the computer isn't grounded anywhere.

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [reborn](#) on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 23:43:07 GMT
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I have one of those wrist strap things on when I'm working on it. But noted, thanks

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Caveman](#) on Tue, 08 Dec 2009 15:59:15 GMT
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I know I shouldn't really bump old topic's but I was looking through my PMs on here and the PMs sent between Reborn and myself popped up about the GFX I sent... I was just curious how your project went...

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [danpaul88](#) on Tue, 08 Dec 2009 16:18:34 GMT
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I don't remember seeing this thread last year... anyway, since Caveman already bumped it...

I did something similar earlier this year, I took a load of parts I had sat in a cupboard collecting dust and, along with a case I purchased to put them in and some extra RAM, build myself a small server PC to sit in a corner and run anything I could think of to put on it, all for less than £40 in

total. Now its running Server 2008 with Active Directory, IIS7, svnserve and a load of other stuff. It's also a handy backup target for all my other PC's...

Just goes to show what you can do with old stuff thats lying around with no purpose...

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Omar007](#) on Tue, 08 Dec 2009 16:40:06 GMT
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danpaul88 wrote on Tue, 08 December 2009 17:18I don't remember seeing this thread last year... anyway, since Caveman already bumped it...

I did something similar earlier this year, I took a load of parts I had sat in a cupboard collecting dust and, along with a case I purchased to put them in and some extra RAM, build myself a small server PC to sit in a corner and run anything I could think of to put on it, all for less than £40 in total. Now its running Server 2008 with Active Directory, IIS7, svnserve and a load of other stuff. It's also a handy backup target for all my other PC's...

Just goes to show what you can do with old stuff thats lying around with no purpose...

Ye it's true

I did the exact same thing for 0 bucks and server 2003

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [reborn](#) on Tue, 08 Dec 2009 17:48:52 GMT
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Caveman wrote on Tue, 08 December 2009 10:59I know I shouldn't really bump old topic's but I was looking through my PMs on here and the PMs sent between Reborn and myself popped up about the GFX I sent... I was just curious how your project went...

The PC is still running round his house. My mum was able to order a mouse and keyboard through her work for free, and my Brother-in-law's mother-in-law got an LCD screen for free and let him have it.

He uses it almost every night and it's still going strong. Was a great success, but I never got him playing renegade.

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Omar007](#) on Tue, 08 Dec 2009 21:52:16 GMT
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reborn wrote on Tue, 08 December 2009 18:48but I never got him playing renegade.
aww

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Tue, 08 Dec 2009 21:55:50 GMT
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Omar007 wrote on Tue, 08 December 2009 21:52reborn wrote on Tue, 08 December 2009 18:48but I never got him playing renegade.
aww

Then we cannot consider it a "great success".

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Caveman](#) on Wed, 09 Dec 2009 15:07:05 GMT
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reborn wrote on Tue, 08 December 2009 17:48Caveman wrote on Tue, 08 December 2009 10:59I know I shouldn't really bump old topic's but I was looking through my PMs on here and the PMs sent between Reborn and myself popped up about the GFX I sent... I was just curious how your project went...

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He uses it almost every night and it's still going strong. Was a great success, but I never got him playing renegade.

Awesome, im glad it all worked out for you. Just goes to show that you dont have to spend crazy amounts of money to give someone a xmas pressie.

As to him playing Renegade.. Well we all cant be Renegaders can we?

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [F1r3st0rm](#) on Wed, 09 Dec 2009 16:30:21 GMT
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Cave why arent u renegading anymore, no good internets in Wales?

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Caveman](#) on Wed, 09 Dec 2009 17:06:24 GMT
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At the moment no, lol, im on one of those mobile dongle things so ping times aren't exactly great lol.

Subject: Re: Recycle your old PC
Posted by [Renardin6](#) on Wed, 09 Dec 2009 23:03:36 GMT
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pawky wrote on Sun, 14 December 2008 18:38reborn wrote on Sun, 14 December 2008 17:43This one:

<http://www.nvidia.com/page/geforce4ti.html>

Pretty nice of him to send it

Definitely...that's a good card. Caveman has a big heart.

it allows you to run renegade at highest details, get him a copy of Renegade.

Quote:Renardin6 - Dec 5, 2003 at 12:15 pm

Voted:

Delete

quote " drkhaze: 60 fps in a 17/18 player game will full graphics? Dawg, your PC owns. "

Hum yeah, It is an Athlon XP Barton 3200+ with 1024 mbddr and good old geforce 4 ti 4200 with 64 mb ddr... (I have also a serial ata hdd 120 Go) But you don't need all that for Renegade with full graphics.

<http://www.n00bstories.com/n00bfiles/view/4455/>
