

It's a question every single one of us has asked at some point in the last 25 years. "Is it time to get new computer?". That's the question I got this week from a viewer. How do you know if it's worth repairing or upgrading? I'm answering her questions which may help answer yours.

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14-19 Jamey Tucker/whatthetech.tv

### **ON-CAMERA TEASE:**

It's a question we've all asked; should I replace my computer or just get it fixed? I'm Jamey Tucker, coming up with some of the questions you should ask to help you decide.

### **ANCHOR INTRO**

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU UPGRADED YOUR COMPUTER? IF YOU'RE LIKE MANY PEOPLE, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME. AND YOU MAY WONDER, IF IT'S TIME TO GET A NEW ONE.

ONE OF OUR VIEWERS SENT THAT QUESTION TO OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER JAMEY TUCKER, AND HE THINKS IT'S A QUESTION MANY PEOPLE ARE ASKING.

### **PACKAGE SCRIPT**

The question comes from viewer Vanessa Hatfield who writes:

"My laptop is about 15 years old. It was able to upgrade to Windows 10 but not Windows 11. When I turned it on today, it was very slow. How much longer can I keep my laptop?"

The life expectancy of a PC is generally 5-7 years. Vanessa's computer came with Windows XP, it can't be updated to Windows 11 or get security updates.

At five years old, PCs will generally become slower to start up and operate software and programs. Let's face it: we're all slower than we were 15 years ago.

If you just can't part with an old computer, you may be able to speed it up to some degree. If your computer or laptop has one of the older spinning hard drives, known as a SATA drive, here's what will happen at some point:

(computer hard drive seizing up)

A dead hard drive means you'll lose everything on it unless it's backed up on another drive.

I suggest having a qualified computer technician install an SSD or solid-state drive.

You can also try using the free software “CCleaner”. This software deletes trackers, and unnecessary files, and removes apps and programs that load at startup.

But it is probably time to upgrade a computer after 7 years. And it’s a good time to do it now because new PCs will come pre-loaded with Windows 11. I will add that if you only use a computer for browsing the web, social media, and checking email, provided you keep it free of malware, it isn’t out of the question that a PC lasts 10 to 15 years, but it’ll have limitations and it’ll be slow. That’s What the Tech? I’m Jamey Tucker

## **ANCHOR TAG**

IF YOU DO DECIDE TO BUY A NEW COMPUTER, YOU SHOULD LOCATE A RECYCLING CENTER TO KEEP THE OLD ONE OUT OF THE LANDFILL. BEST BUY AND STAPLES WILL RECYCLE LAPTOPS FOR FREE.

## **WEB STORY**

When was the last time you bought a new computer for yourself? People these days tend to upgrade their smartphones every few years and keep using the same computer they purchased years ago.

Unless you’re a gamer or video editor, the computer you purchased in the last 5-7 years serves you just fine. But how do you know whether it’s time to upgrade to a new PC or just repair the one you have?

Vanessa Hatfield, a viewer, recently posed a question that many of us grapple with: How long can we hold on to our trusty old laptops? Her 15-year-old laptop, a relic from the past, has seen the rise of social media, the advent of smartphones, and the evolution of operating systems. But now it’s showing signs of wear and tear. So, Vanessa, let’s dive into the world of aging laptops and explore your options.

First off, kudos to Vanessa for keeping her laptop alive for 15 years! That’s an impressive feat. But like all good things, laptops have a lifespan. Generally, a PC’s prime time is around 5 to 7 years. Beyond that, they start showing their age, much like we do.

Vanessa’s laptop came with Windows XP, a classic operating system that served us well. The jump to Windows 10 went well, but now it can’t be upgraded to the shiny new Windows 11 or receive security updates. So, what’s a laptop owner to do?

At the ripe age of 5, laptops tend to slow down. Boot times drag, software stutters, and patience wears thin. It’s like our joints creaking in the morning – a universal experience. But fear not; there are ways to breathe new life into an old machine.

Vanessa’s laptop likely sports an old-school spinning hard drive, affectionately known as a SATA drive. These drives have served us faithfully, but they’re prone to wear and tear. Eventually, they

might seize up like an old engine. And when that happens, you risk losing everything – unless you've backed up your data elsewhere.

Here's where our hero arrives: the Solid-State Drive (SSD). It's like swapping out your old car engine for a turbocharged one. An SSD is faster, more reliable, and can give your laptop a new lease on life. I recommend having a qualified technician install an SSD – it's like giving your laptop a rejuvenating spa day.

For those who want to tinker themselves, consider using CCleaner, a free software tool. It's like Marie Kondo for your laptop – it declutters, removes unnecessary files, and tidies up your startup programs. Your laptop will thank you and you will notice a difference.

But let's face it: after 7 years, it's probably time to consider an upgrade. And guess what? New PCs come pre-loaded with Windows 11. Plus, they're faster, sleeker, and more powerful than their ancestors. And the best part? They won't break the bank like they did back in 2010.

Now, if you're a light user – browsing the web, checking emails, and scrolling through social media – your old laptop can soldier on. Just keep it malware-free, and it might last a whopping 10 to 15 years. Sure, it'll have limitations, but hey, so do we as we age gracefully.

So, Vanessa, whether you decide to upgrade or cherish your vintage laptop, remember: that technology may evolve, but the memories we create with our trusty companions remain timeless.