



## Thinner, Lighter, Sleeker - But Better?

The trend with notebooks is to keep making them thinner and lighter, but these new sleekbooks, ultrabooks, convertibles and ultra-portable PCs are more disposable than most people realize. These new devices are more like phones and tablets than they are like the notebooks of old.

The best advice we can give when shopping is to make sure you know what you're buying, whether it can be maintained and whether you can expect to own it for longer than the manufacturer's warranty period. If it's thinner than an inch overall, converts into a tablet or is a touchscreen under \$600, chances are there will be problems with one or more of these.

**Upgrades** - The biggest downside from a tech perspective is that you can't add RAM in many of these new devices since they are soldering it all on the motherboard. If your RAM fails, replace the motherboard. The cheaper options are also coming with 4GB of RAM which is fine for basic tasks, but will slow you down if you're a multitasking wizard.

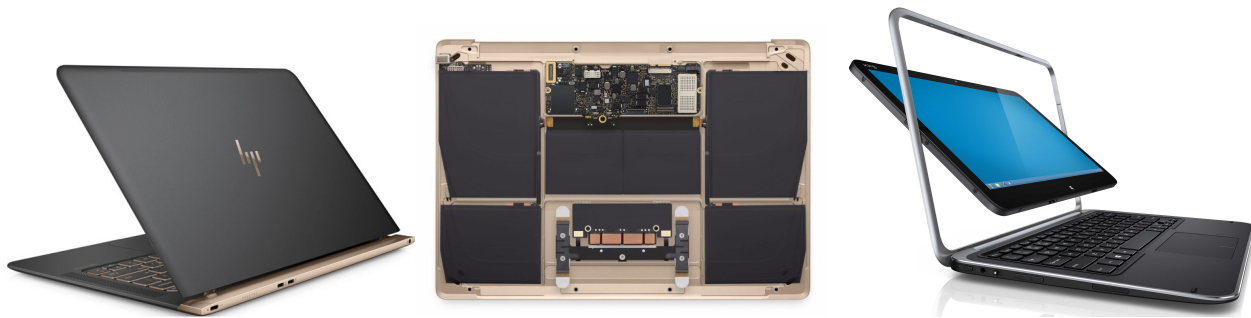
**Storage** - Many of the cheapest devices are coming with 32GB of storage space, which is barely enough for an operating system, let alone some pictures, music and documents. Some manufacturers are even soldering this 32GB on the motherboard which prevents conventional data recovery and is another reason you may need to replace the motherboard.

**Cooling** - Apple has been guilty of this for years, but the thinner and quieter you make a system, the worse it's going to be at cooling itself off. If the

processor overheats, they are often soldered to the board now, so overheating is another reason you may need to replace the motherboard again.

**Costs** - The retail price of these devices is also cheaper than they've ever been, but replacing the major components like the touchscreen or motherboard can be as expensive as buying a new device because parts tend to be scarce due to the vast number of models on the market and quite pricey because of all the components manufacturers are combining into one package.

**Design** - This can be from a user or technicians perspective, but a lack of USB ports, audio jacks, video outputs, etc. is becoming more and more of an inconvenience as devices get thinner and smaller. Inside the devices, manufacturers are giving up on screws in favor of tape, glue or plastic welds that prevent simple parts from being replaced.



### **Refurbished Dell Latitude E6540**

Intel Core i7 2.7GHz  
8GB DDR3 RAM  
500GB HDD  
DVD-RW

Windows 10 Professional  
AMD Radeon HD 8790M  
15.6" LCD with webcam!

## **Tech Tip: Get A Tune Up!**

Just like your vehicle, a computer needs regular maintenance to run smoothly and to prolong its useful life. A tune-up is a software optimization that keeps your computer running as quickly as possible. By slimming down the temporary files stored on the computer and the number of programs that startup at login and stay running all the time, it leaves more system resources for the things you're actually trying to launch and run. A tune-up will also clean potentially unwanted or unneeded programs. In addition to a tune-up, we

Get business-level performance, reliability, and productivity!.

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## Questions?

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## Mobile Devices

While we don't repair phones, tablets or other portable devices, we do often get asked what to do when one is being slow or having software errors.

Here are the 3 steps you should take when dealing with slow, glitchy gadgets.

**Reboot** - The first step should always be turning it off and on again. This can help with a number of issues if the device has been powered on for a while or an app is having memory issues.

**Reset** - If the problems persist after a reboot, the best bet is to back up any pictures or documents not saved anywhere else and reset the device to factory defaults. This will rule out

often suggest a heatsink service to replace the thermal paste inside the computer which prevents overheating and physically clean out dust and debris to ensure consistent airflow and help to maintain proper temperatures, streamlining your computer's operation.

Tune-ups also include a quick check and repair of most file system problems and hard drive defragmentation. We also perform a quick check for viruses and hard drive health to make sure there aren't additional performance issues affecting the system.

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## Featured Accessory: TP-Link AC450 Nano USB Adapter

- Small, unobtrusive design allows you to plug it in and forget it is even there.
- Blazing fast wireless data transmission rates of up to 433Mbps.
- Transmits on the uncluttered 5GHz band to avoid wireless signal interference.
- Utilizes 802.11ac standard and is backward compatible with 802.11a/n.
- Supports 64/128-bit WEP, WPA/WPA2, and WPA-PSK/WPA2-PSK encryption standards.

TP-LINK's AC450 Wireless Nano USB Adapter, the Archer T1U allows you to connect a desktop or laptop computer to a wireless network and achieve speeds of up to 433Mbps. This miniature adapter is designed to be as convenient and

settings and apps as the cause of the problem.

**Replace** - If the device is still having problems, the hardware is likely going bad. If it's older than a year or two, replace it. If it was less than \$300, you'll probably still want to replace it. Otherwise there are mobile specialist shops that may be able to repair the device. Recommend calling in advance.

unobtrusive as possible, while also including attractive features such as advanced wireless encryption, easy installation, and Soft AP Mode.



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## From the Blog!

### Next Time on the Blog:

### ***Wireless Routers Revisited & What's New!***

"Wireless router (WiFi) technology has evolved since the last time we discussed them on the blog. So we thought it a good time to revisit them and update you as to what has changed, and what you should be looking be looking for in a new wireless router purchase..."



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