

Let our Experience and Expertise work for you !!

Why Laptops are NOT for you !

While a good quality laptop computer is a strong asset for any computer user, when the discussion turns to the technological needs required by a secondary or post secondary student, the answer may be a surprise. There are many situations where the laptop computer will simply not be the best investment in time and money. As this newsletter is geared towards anyone with an interest to the student in their lives, the rest of this short article will have only to do with their particular needs

In the book, "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Students", Sean Covey, the author suggests that one of the problems with students achieving to their potential is being proactive. This would mean that students need a very convenient way to record: class days and times, test dates, when assignments are due, holidays, scheduled study breaks, when project groups are getting together, and when tutorials are being held. The list of activities is nearly endless.

While high school may have been a more successful time for the student, in all fairness, teachers in the elementary and secondary panel do spend time reminding students of the events in their lives. As well, parents are more in tune with the High School life, and also help to remind the younger minds. In this respect, the student is only partially prepared for post-secondary life.

While there are software programs that would work very well on a laptop, any student must use the laptop periodically throughout the day to make this software work. This means that in this simple task, the laptop is not a very good solution.

Since being organized and proactive is such a vital habit for any student, it makes sense that the technological tool of choice is very much more portable, and easier to use. This is why for this

single reason, the technological tool of choice is the PDA or Personal Digital Assistant. There are many different choices, but for purposes of this newsletter I will focus on the PalmPilot©.

The PalmPilot is a very small unit that can easily be carried in the shirt pocket, but personally I choose a CaseLogic© padded case for my valuable palmpilot. Regardless, this device can be easily carried around and used effortlessly.

Remember, both a laptop computer and a PDA can work like a sophisticated planner. Each can provide you with addresses and phone numbers of friends and classmates, but the question is: "Would you really have a laptop with you at this moment? Would you be more likely to have a small PDA in your pocket right now?"

But it gets better. Another task that the student must be able to readily accomplish is to take down lecture notes. While some professors could have notes already made and posted on the Internet somewhere, the truth of the matter is that there are always notes that need to be taken.

If you are in a program that requires drawing or odd symbols, e.g. chemistry, mathematics, engineering, etc., there is software that will accept these symbols, but an argument could be made for paper and pencil still being the champ for notetaking of this sort.

Recently at a meeting involving university



students and people from the community, I was able to see the true ineffectiveness of the laptop at work. I patiently waited for the

meeting to begin. The session coordinator began to speak. Information was being given out, decisions were being made, and important dates were being established. I remember feeling rather smug as my old Palm Pilot IIIc turned on instantly, and connected to my small keyboard in virtually a few seconds. I was ready to go. Meanwhile, the laptop users were busy uncovering their laptops, and then proceeded to wait while their units "booted up" into operation. Now, I must admit that the functionality of the laptop computer is very much greater than a simple PDA, but the added features of a notebook computer are really not employed in an average classroom. As well, I find the wait to be a problem, as well the weight of the laptop computer is many times heavier than the simple Palmpilot PDA.

Packing up my assembly takes me only a few seconds, but my laptop computer user brethren need to spend a little more time packing away their material. I venture to say that my PalmPilot weighs as much as a laptop battery.

That evening, I placed my PalmPilot into its synch cradle, and now both my desktop computer and PDA "knew" the same material. The notes I had taken were safely copied over to my desktop computer.

There is very much more to know about the Personal Digital Assistant or PDA, but it works very well on its own, but is absolutely smashing when electronically married to a desktop computer. So before you run out and buy a heavy and bulky laptop computer, and think that this rather expensive piece of technology is going to help you make the grade, consider your scenario seriously. The small compact Palmpilot can add considerably to your overall efficiency and effectiveness.

99 Tips, Tricks and Traps for FREE

The curse of new technology is it is not always obvious how to use it in an effective and efficient way. Most people buy a computer system, and while there is some improvement, your abilities should be amplified considerably - not just marginally. So, with this in mind, during the summer months, we are offering a free course for all graduates. And, we are taking a rather generous view of what we mean by graduate. Basically, if you are student and you purchased a desktop

computer from Mentor Computers, you receive a free seminar.

We guarantee that your computer skills will easily double. There is every reason to believe that with the added efficiency and effectiveness, your grades should be increase as well. So, if you are looking at a new computer system, don't hesitate. Buy now, and learn to really use your computer system - better than everyone else.

To bring study supremacy to you this summer, bundle the PDA with your new computer. They start at only \$ 79, and receive a second seminar for free - **STUDENT SUCCESS STRATEGIES & THE PALMPILOT.**

Computer Clinic

Just a quick reminder: Bring your computer in for that much needed maintenance. Remember physical maintenance that is often overlooked causes a computer to fail. As well, what have you done to battle viruses and spyware lately? Let us inspect your system, and give you the tools for safe computing. And to make it all the more palatable, we are offering a discount on all labour this month. Remember, when you visit our computer clinic, the Doctor is in !!!



Receive **25% off** the labour for any repair, virus removal, upgrade or new computer system assembly and testing this month. Simply cut out this tiny coupon, and include this code: **AJ2X9-1A**

Mentor Computers
250 South Algoma Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 3C2

(807)-345-1995

