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Survival Without Computers

By Kerri Salls

I was slowed down when my computer crashed and I had no data, no address book and not even my passwords to get back online. I didn't think I was doing anything remarkable by bouncing back to productivity even with this handicap for a week. But from the feedback I've had from more than a few people, it seems paralysis would have been the acceptable common option.

Yes, I got slowed down, but nothing critical was lost and no appointments missed. Why? Internal reserves, resources and drive. How do you survive in business today without your computer (or maybe it's when your cell phone drops in the lake or your Ipod gets lost)?

There were three parts to my personal survival. They are:

A. Resourcefulness — When things don't go your way, you can have a pity party and choose to be paralyzed. Or you can decide to dig in to your reserves and available resources to propel you forward in spite of obstacles. I start with a simple question: What's the most important thing that needs to be done now and how do I do it (options)?

It's a matter of choosing to get the work done and keeping your priorities in order, or using this problem (any problem) as an excuse to procrastinate, or wallow in self-pity, or give up.

B. Intestinal Fortitude — This was my father's term for the drive, determination, guts, stamina and the like to find a way or make a way when you hit a roadblock. Intestinal fortitude keeps you going because the vision is clear, your passion is unquenchable and you are a winner - and winners never quit.

Of course when a glitch happens, what matters is how you handle it, not deny it. Handling a problem head on, gives you an action plan. Action puts you in control. When you are in control, the fear and panic can't control you.

If a glitch with your computer is enough to put your whole business at risk, maybe you need a dose of intestinal fortitude to make some hard decisions to reduce that risk in the future, e.g. strategic investments in your infrastructure, etc. Look at the cost of the investment compared to the direct cost

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or opportunity costs of a week offline (think salaries, sales, customer loyalty, customer satisfaction, product delays, and shipping delays).

C. Planning — In this case, I was indeed lucky. The three days after the disk crash had already been blocked out to work on my three-year vision and budget to get there and the detailed plans for 2006. My schedule was already cleared of appointments, deadlines or correspondence.

As business owners, we all need some reflection time to lift our sights and take a longer view of where we are going, otherwise, it's possible to short-change yourself and the business.

The silver lining of my system crash was that without my own computer, I couldn't be tempted to procrastinate or avoid the soul-searching and reflection this process requires. I was able to really concentrate on what I want to do professionally and personally for the next 12–36 months.

Putting a timeline to the vision and goals accelerates the business momentum and recharges my batteries for the next 90 days to set it all in motion. Try it.

Kerri Salls, MBA runs a virtual business school to train, consult and coach small business CEO's and entrepreneurs in 10 key strategies to make more profit in less time. Learn more at

<http://www.breakthrough-business-school.com/products.html>

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Refurbished Computers on the Internet

By Bryan Wayt

What is a Refurbished Computer?

Refurbished Computers. Remanufactured Computers. Reconditioned Computers. Essentially, all of these terms refer to the same thing. But what does refurbished really mean? A refurbished computer is one that is sent back to the manufacturer for a variety of reasons, refitted with different parts as necessary, and then tested and approved for resale by the manufacturer. Yes, this could mean that a computer was returned because it didn't work properly. But, this is not always the case. There is an excellent chance that the problem was nothing more than a cosmetic defect, such as a small ding on the monitor. Or it could be that a customer received the wrong model, but had already opened the box.

Most importantly, refurbished doesn't mean that you're buying a computer with a defect or something else wrong with it. All computers go through the same testing and approval process refurbished and new alike.

Refurbished Computers are not Old Computers.

Buying refurbished doesn't mean you're stuck with an outdated machine. While computers are forever becoming faster and able to hold more data on larger hard drives, the basics of the computer are still the same. The technology used is typically less than a year old, so you can get processing power and memory specifications that are almost the equivalent of brand new models, but at a much cheaper cost. If you just want an inexpensive computer to do e-mail, surf the Internet, balance your checkbook, play a few games, and do some word processing, you might want to invest in a refurbished model. Most are still upgradeable in case you want to add more memory, a larger hard drive, or even a faster processor later on.

Who Should buy Refurbished Computers?

Many people new to technology are unsure what their needs are. It often makes sense for them to purchase a refurbished computer. I recently did this for my grandmother. She enjoys genealogy and has many boxes and books full of information about our family. The internet is a great tool for researching your ancestry and sharing the fascinating stories that you find. My grandmother had very limited experience with computers, but I purchased a Compaq for her for Christmas. She loves it, and it has allowed her to store much of her information electronically and to share that information with family all over the United States.

Small home offices can also benefit from purchasing remanufactured computers. Many companies cannot afford a huge investment into hardware. By purchasing quality used equipment these businesses can take advantage of the benefits of technology without breaking the bank.

This article is written by Bryan Wayt webmaster at Cheap Computer Information.

Refurbished Computers on the Internet

Advertising Your Genes

Classification of Computers

Great Inventions: The Internet

7 Strategies for Handling Last Minute Meetings

Tame Your Personal Computer

DOS Made Easy

24 Prophecies fulfilled in 24 Hours

The First and Second Adam

Understanding Incontinence



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