

Our New Laptops



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WB4EHG

- ❑ I said at our last meeting that I was not going to order the laptops voted on in the previous meeting, due to lack of interest in Field Day by our members
- ❑ That attitude changed during the meeting and afterward
- ❑ Thanks to Neil WB2RUU, several of us were able to get hands-on experience with a refurbished laptop
- ❑ This laptop met all of our requirements
- ❑ The officer's present voted to purchase 3 of these laptops from a reputable and popular merchant



 acer Refurbished: Acer Laptop Aspire 3 A315-21-95KF AMD A9-Series A9-9420 (3.0 GHz) 6 GB Memory 1 \$254.99	 acer Acer Aspire 3 15.6" A315-21-95KF Laptop Notebook PC Computer AMD A9-9420 6GB RAM 1TB HDD \$799.99 \$489.00
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AMD A9-Series (3.0 GHz)
6 GB Memory
1 TB HDD
AMD Radeon R5 Series
15.6" Display 1366 x 768
USB3 & USB2
HDMI
WiFi & Ethernet
SHDC Card Slot
Windows 10 Home 64 bit
Bluetooth 4.0
Crapware

Total cost: \$785.31

- On each laptop I:
- Installed the latest version of Windows 10 Home 64 bit
 - Installed all updates
 - Ran multiple cleanup programs,
 - Ran sftw that tests the HDD
 - Installed programs that we use.



Crapware

- ❑ Pre-installed programs for which the manufacturer is paid
- ❑ What I can remember uninstalling
 - Acer applications (a lot)
 - MS Office trial which costs \$ after 30 days (& slows booting)
 - Netflix
 - Amazon
 - ebay
 - Norton Security
 - YouTube
 - Yahoo

What I would change if these were mine

- ❑ Laptop HDD's spin (5400 RPM) at a slower rate than desktop (7200 RPM) drives which makes them slow to load and save programs and data
 - Replace HDD with a SSD (250GB \$105, 500GB \$130)
 - Install a 16GB SDHC card (\$9), to be used as a swap space



Now, we have a problem ...

□ Computers require constant maintenance

- Lithium Ion batteries want to be charged continuously
 - ❖ If the batteries are allowed to discharge they will need to be replaced sooner
 - ❖ Keeping them plugged into AC power makes them last longer
- MS Windows updates need to be installed as they are published
 - ❖ Waiting too long to apply the updates runs the risk of making a new update fail and require someone to spend a lot of time getting the problem fixed (Been there, done that, don't want to do it again)
 - ❖ Performing the updates as they are published eliminates this risk



Proposed Solution

□ Custodians

- Select 3 volunteers to care for the laptops
- Qualifications
 - ❖ Licensed hams
 - ❖ Active members of the club
 - ❖ People that we can count on to perform these duties
- Duties
 - ❖ Keep the laptop plugged into AC power
 - ❖ Once every 2 weeks, boot and force Windows Update to run
 - Performing the updates as they are published eliminates this risk
 - ❖ Bring the laptop to every club function



Proposed Solution

□ Custodians 2

➤ Caveats

- ❖ This is not YOUR computer.
- ❖ You do not use it as if it is YOUR computer
- ❖ Your kids/grandkids don't get to use it either

➤ Occasional Use

- ❖ You may use it occasionally for ham operating
- ❖ You may install and configure ham software and keep it updated
 - WSJT
 - JTAlertX
 - MMTTY
 - N1MM+
 - Logger32
 - Other programs of similar nature

