

The KCS Enquirer

Information about the Computer Revolution

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KCS Now Selling POS SSDs are Fast & Furious
Windows 7 is Heaven Office 2010 is Here

KCS News

*KCS is Now Offering
Point of Sale (POS)
Systems*

We now offer a full line of POS hardware and software products specializing in Flashpoint POS software. Flashpoint software can be used for Restaurants (tablecloth and fast food), retail, golf courses and health clubs. You can check them out at www.trimpos.net. A factory trained technician can tailor a system to meet your needs. We offer system maintenance, upgrades and technical support.

Server Monitor to the Rescue

A server monitor program can save you time and money. The program watches your system 24/7 and alerts our technicians if something is going wrong. Just last month we were alerted to a serious situation on a server during the night and we were able to fix the problem that night and prevent a costly shutdown. The program is cheap insurance against lost production time.

Solid State Drive (SSD) Follow-Up

Since our last newsletter we have had much more experience with SSDs. We have several deployed in house and in the field and to date there have

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been no failures or data losses. Since they have no moving parts they are much less prone to damage or data loss from jolts and bumps – very important for laptops that are apt to be jostled and dropped. Read and write functions have proven to be extremely quick. Test have shown computer speed increases of up to 56% just from switching from mechanical to solid state drives. Boot up time is substantially reduced and the drives have a much longer life-span. Another side benefit is reduced power consumption and heat generation which also makes them ideal for use in laptops.

We have configured both desktops and servers with SSDs. Most of the servers have both solid state and mechanical drives but we have deployed one with all SSDs and it screams. In a mixed drive configuration the SSDs handle the operating system and application programs while the mechanical drives provide data storage. While not as fast as an all solid state drive server they are much faster than an all mechanical drive machine. Desktops in a network environment normally do not need to store large amounts of data so one SSD is large enough to do the job. Due

to the reduced power consumption, lower heat output and the inherent ruggedness notebook computers have benefitted the most from solid state drives. In a few years we feel they will be the standard for mobile computers. Even today it is worth the additional investment if you are storing a lot of valuable data on your mobile device and speed and/or data security is a high priority. Longer battery life and better reliability seal the deal.

SSD prices are still high but the extra expense is justified if speed and ruggedness are critical priorities.

Surf on Your TV - No Strings Attached

If you have a laptop computer with a wireless capable Intel processor and a TV with a composite A/V or HDMI input you can project your computer display to your television wirelessly. Whether you are viewing pictures, videos, listening to music or surfing the Web you will experience great image clarity and terrific sound. If you have a Wi-Fi connection you can be connected to your TV, your home network and the Internet all at once and all wireless. Your display will fill even the largest TV screen. You will need an adapter to transfer the wireless signal to the input cable to the television. These currently cost a little over \$100.00. This device is portable so you can take it with you and use it with any compatible TV. We can set you up with the proper laptop at a surprisingly reasonable price.

Notebooks Are Coming on Strong

Notebook/ laptops keep getting better and better. Gone are the days of heavy, slow, hot running mobile computers that were prone to breaking and expensive to repair. Several innovations have really boosted their usability and reliability. First and foremost is the availability of processors that are specifically designed for mobile devices. They are much smaller, use much less power and produce much less heat. Internal temperature has always been the destroyer of mobile devices. Lower processor temperatures equals better reliability and results in lighter units. Virtually all notebooks now are network ready - Ethernet connections and built-in wireless capability have become standard. Units designed to utilize true docking stations make the transition from mobile to office use a snap. Additionally laptops have become easier to repair and upgrade. They are worth a look.

Although we strongly recommend the Equus line which is manufactured locally and is a high quality,

reasonable priced machine for which we can offer on-site warranty support we offer other brands as well. Lenovo brand computers have been especially well received and are reasonably priced.

MS News

The Windows 7 Experience

Microsoft's newest operating system (OS), Windows 7 not only delivers on its promises but is also one which we can enthusiastically endorse unlike the previous Microsoft OS, Vista. Back in the first half of 2007 to quote our newsletter "we are not recommending upgrades to Vista ...". We never changed that recommendation on Vista even after all the fixes and service packages that were released by Microsoft to try and fix the shortcomings. Windows 7, even though it is built on the same kernel as Vista, is fast, stable and a much more secure OS that offers many more features. If there is a notable drawback to Windows 7 it's the inability to upgrade easily over Windows XP. To upgrade a XP computer the hard drive must be wiped before Windows 7 can be installed. Even taking this into consideration it is a worthwhile upgrade due to the performance bump and the fact that this is Microsoft's OS of the future. There are tools available to help with the transition and you will qualify for the upgrade price. All Vista and XP operating systems are eligible for upgrade pricing. No doubt Microsoft will drop support of previous operating systems as soon as possible, especially XP for which Microsoft has continued support only because of pressure from the business community. When switching to W7 some device drivers can be hard to find especially for some older devices and some programs will not run in 7. Drivers are always a problem with new OSs but they are being released rapidly. Windows 7 has an excellent built-in virtual machine system so it can run a virtual XP or other OS alongside W7

to run programs that will not run on 7. Put Windows 7 on a computer with a Solid State drive and you will experience incredible speed especially with the 64 bit version.

Office 2010

Office 2010 retail version has been released for business use in four versions; Standard, Home & Office, Professional and Professional Plus. As I'm sure you noticed the Small Business Edition is history. As of now Standard and Professional Plus are available only through Volume Licensing. The OEM versions available now are Basic 2007, Home & Business 2010 and Professional 2010. These are the versions available with new systems and through us as stand-alone products. Remember we can offer you some great prices on Office Suites. Office Home and Business contains Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote and Outlook. Standard adds Publisher. Professional adds Access and WebApps. Professional Plus adds Communicator, InfoPath and SharePoint Workspace 2010. A Retail version named Home and Student is also available and it is the same as Home and Business except it does not have Outlook. To say that Microsoft has done its usual crummy job of releasing a product would be giving them too much credit. Information has been vague, inaccurate and hard to come by. If you have recently purchased 2007 version you may be eligible for a free upgrade to 2010.

Regardless of the release problems Office 2010 has some nice new features. The launch of WebApps will allow access to Office documents using only a web browser. An Office Mobile version will enhance usage via cell phone and integration with the Internet and SharePoint is improved. We will have more reports as we work with it.