

CRE&T Computers --- There IS a Difference!

Not every computer makes the grade! Some computers are too old or too slow. CRE&T computers must meet certain standards. Standards evolve over time, and we continually re-evaluate and raise the bar to qualify our computers. We ensure that our computers are useful and stay useful.

❖ How We Choose a Computer to Refurbish --- Our Criteria

- Speed: The processor (CPU) must be 800 Mhz minimum.
- Storage: The hard disk must be 15 GB minimum.
- Memory: The chip memory (RAM) must be 256 MB minimum.
- Video: The adapter must support 32-bit color at 1024 X 768 (XGA) minimum.
- Monitor: The monitor must be 17 inches across the diagonal minimum.
- Mouse: The mouse must be PS/2 or USB and must have a wheel.
- Audio: All systems must have functioning audio, either onboard or otherwise.
- Ports: There must be at least two functioning USB ports
- Network: The network interface card (NIC) must be 100Base-T or 1000Base-T.
- Optical 1: The primary drive must be a CD-RW or CD-RW/DVD, minimum.
- Optical 2: Any secondary drive will be a DVD-ROM.
- Floppy: All systems must have a 1.44 Floppy (if the motherboard supports this.)
- Power Supply: Normal replacement power supplies will be 300 watts, minimum.

Most CRE&T computers exceed the above specifications.

❖ How We Refurbish a Computer --- Our Process

- Examination: Fans and capacitors are examined, and the rest of the machine is inspected for burn marks or other indications of past hardware problems.
- Cleaning: The computer is thoroughly cleaned inside and out. Dust is blown out from inside the computer case and special attention is paid to the power supply, fans, and other hard to clean areas.
- Flashing
 - The mainboard BIOS is updated to the latest version available.
 - CD-RW and DVD-RW firmwares are updated to the latest versions.
- Testing
 - Hard disk: S.M.A.R.T. tests are run to eliminate drives with pre-fail conditions.
 - Optical Drive: A DOS CD is booted to guarantee optical drive fitness.
 - PS/2: The system is tested using a PS/2 mouse and a PS/2 keyboard to ensure that PS/2 ports are functional (if no PS/2 ports are present then USB ports are used.)
- Compatibility: Versions of Linux or Windows are booted from the optical drive to determine that the system is compatible with these operating systems.
- License: Windows systems are installed according to the Certificate of Authenticity (COA) attached to the case. Windows XP systems must have a XP COA, Windows 98 systems must have a Windows 98 COA etc. Systems without a Windows COA are installed using Mepis Linux or sometimes Ubuntu Linux.
- Power Supply: Any failed power supply will be replaced with an appropriate tested power supply.

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A computer is only as useful as the software it contains. At CRE&T, we ensure that your computers are ready to use. There are no trial versions of software installed and there are no beta versions of software installed. You will find that your system is loaded with excellent applications and utilities that should meet the needs of most users. Installed applications are always the most recent versions available. Operating systems are patched with the most recent security updates and drivers. Every software package included with your system is ready to go, and will continue to run for as long as you wish.

CRE&T systems are broadband internet ready, and have been tested to work.

❖ How We Configure a Computer --- Our Installation Procedure

- The base operating systems is installed (Windows XP, Mepis, Windows 2000, Ubuntu, etc.)
- All available Updates to the operating system are applied.
- A complete suite of applications software and utilities are installed.
- Among the applications are
 - An office suite (word processor, spreadsheet, database, etc.)
 - Helper applications (Adobe Reader, etc.)
 - Utilities (antivirus and backup programs, etc.)
 - Hardware enabling programs (CD burning and DVD playback, etc.)
 - Productivity programs (accounting, desktop publishing, music editing, etc.)
 - System maintenance programs (defraggers, system info, monitoring, etc.)
 - Many other programs to enhance your productivity and enjoyment.
- Once all programs are installed, the hard disk is defragmented.
- Next, the user profiles are tweaked for looks, speed and functionality.
- After the system is determined to be fully functional, any appropriate licenses are applied, Windows systems are activated, and antivirus protection is updated.
- Finally, systems are quality checked for errors and omissions and placed into our outgoing computer queue.

Our goal is to create the best value you can find in a refurbished computer. We do this by thoroughly cleaning, testing, upgrading, and updating the components, and checking our work at each stage of the build process.

We hope you like our services and enjoy using your CRE&T computer.