

## **Highest Quality, Lowest Price!**

Isn't that an oxymoron? You hear the ads on the radio promising the highest quality computers at the absolute lowest prices. How is that possible? It's not. I mentioned a while back that I wasn't a fan of custom built computers and here is why.

Occasionally someone calls me and wants me to build them a computer. If they REALLY want me to, I will, but I prefer not to. I think you get a much better quality machine by buying a name brand machine like a Dell or a Gateway than having one "custom built."

Any custom built computer is only as good as the person building it. In most cases, the person actually putting it together is an entry level technician. Most times it is a college kid working his way through college and chances are he's either hung over or worried about the exam he's got tomorrow. As for the components, most are decent quality, but usually have never been tested together in the combination that you ordered. Once the machine is built, it is usually left on a counter to "burn in" overnight and then boxed up for you. If you ever have problems, chances are the kid that built it no longer works there.

I don't exclude myself from this scenario. Any computer I build is only as good as the care I put into assembling it. Some days I have more time and therefore build a better machine - other days... Then there's the warranty. If a motherboard goes out on a Dell, you can order and EXACT replacement for it - even if its several years old. If a motherboard goes out on a clone, chances are you'll be hard pressed to find an exact replacement anywhere which means if you're running Windows XP you'll have to completely reload windows.

In conclusion, I would advise anyone looking for a computer to look for a good name brand machine from a company that will probably be around at least until the computer's warranty runs out.