

Visions of The Future

When it comes to computers I've always been a little near-sighted. A mere 10 years ago I can remember playing on the internet for the first time ever and thinking "this is a waste of time." Back then only a few companies had websites and they were a far cry from the graphically diverse sites you see nowadays.

In 1994 I had a T1 (1.5Mb/sec) internet line at my office and only used it 3 or 4 times per week. There were no Instant Messengers and downloading MP3's was still several years away. I had just upgraded my home computer to a Pentium 75MHz (I still have that computer and it still works) with 16MB of RAM and a 1.2GB hard drive, I was on cloud nine for about 6 months. In 1995 a friend of mine paid almost \$2000 for a 200MHz Dell and I remember thinking, "Who could possibly need that much speed?" And who could possibly need a CD burner?

Here we are 10 years later and that 200Mhz computer probably isn't worth \$50.00. I have a pile of old pentium computers just like that one behind my store. About once a month I load them up in my Explorer and haul them off to the scrap metal yard. That's what this world has come to.

As near-sighted as I am I do foresee a day when computers will be disposable. Rather than spending a couple hundred dollars to fix one it will be cheaper to just go buy a new one (kind of like cell phones and calculators today). So where does that put a computer guy like me? Hopefully by then I'll be comfortably wealthy from having cleaned all those viruses and spyware in the early 2000's. I'll be like the typewriter repair guys I used to work with at IBM back in the early 90's. The ones that didn't get rich are now stocking shelves at Wal-Mart because they were too near-sighted to learn something new like fixing computers. Maybe I should build an RV park...