

Time to Say Goodbye...

To Windows 95 that is. I nashed my teeth when I had to leave my DOS behind and install Windows 3.1. I cursed Microsoft when I finally had to move up to windows 95. When Windows Me came out I could just spit. Now I have XP to deal with. But looking back, with the exception of Windows Me, they've all been pretty decent operating systems. I still run 95 on a couple of machines and it works flawlessly. However, the days of Windows 95 are quickly coming to an end.

If you are still running Windows 95, its time to upgrade. Not because I say so, but because the industry is quickly forcing us that way. Most printers, scanners, cameras and other such devices no longer support 95. Most of these devices require a USB connection and at least Windows 98 and in some cases 98SE (Second Edition).

So what's it going to upgrade your computer? In most cases, if your computer is old enough that it has 95 on it, its probably best to just replace the entire computer. If you want to upgrade though, your only option will probably upgrading to 98. Chances are, installing either Windows 2000 or XP would slow down your computer way too much. Even simply installing 98 will require some upgrading just to keep your performance at its current level. If your PC is not at least a Pentium II, don't even think of putting 98 on it - Pentium I's simply were not designed to run 98.

So if your old computer is no longer "cutting the mustard", then you may have several options. You can buy an entire new system or perhaps just a new "main box" if your monitor and printer are still in good condition. Chances are both will work with a newer computer just fine. You can now purchase a really good computer for under \$500, just make sure you get at least 256MB of RAM with it or it may wind up running slower than your old.