

Your next computer, a laptop?

Notebook computers were once considered to be a compromise, sacrificing performance for portability. Graphic design and layout, one of the more resource-intensive tasks done on computers, once demanded the largest screen, fastest processors, and most memory expansion one could afford. Now, the quality, speed, and size of displays, processors, and memory have increased so much that most notebook computers can handle typical graphic design tasks easily.

Besides the obvious advantage of mobility, notebooks also take up less

desk space, keep running during power failures, and are easy for an IT department to redeploy to another user when the original owner gives it up.

Many of the disadvantages of notebook computers, such as cramped keyboards, small screens, and limited expansion capabilities, can be bypassed by “docking” the notebook to a spare keyboard, monitor, and other peripherals in the main work area where the notebook will be used.

Apple Computer is seriously committed to notebooks. In January, Apple CEO

Steve Jobs said that someday “notebooks will be over 50% of the computers we ship.” He then went on to introduce the first notebook computer to feature a 17-inch, 1440-by-900 pixel display. Dell and other Windows notebook vendors produce many high-performance notebook models with 15-inch, 1600-by-1200 pixel displays. These notebooks display considerably more screen real estate than a typical 21” desktop display running at 1024-by-768 pixels.

Keith Gilbert provides training & support services to help graphic designers and communicators convey print and Web messages effectively. Gilbert Consulting, 651 633-7148 www.gilbertconsulting.com