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DUE DILIGENCE

Issue 65

To Upgrade Or Not To Upgrade *By Matt Leyrer*



Small but cute,
and lots of fun!

Memories
and family
fun - always
worth it!



I'm sure we have all heard, or been a part of this sometime before in life. You see what used to be your brand new state of the art computer sitting at the desk, and your 12-year-old son or daughter comes up and says, "Why is our computer so slow? Billy's computer is twice as fast as ours. We should upgrade to the new Pentium Xeon." And while your child prattles on about computer upgrades you are left in the dust still trying to figure out how your child knows all this stuff. But fear not, I am going to give you the run down on when and how you should upgrade, or if you should just buy a new computer.



First things first as all people are different, so are their needs for a computer. If the only thing you use a computer for is word processing and the occasional jaunt on the Internet then your computer should last at least 5 years with out needing an upgrade and or replacing it. Now if your like me and use your computer for anything from digital recording to playing the latest high end video games, your going to need to invest a little more interest in your computers capabilities. Here are a few points you should look for if you are the latter of the two. If you checked more than half of these boxes, then you should definitely consider upgrading your PC's potential.

- Your PC is more than 3 years old.
- Your PC has less than 256 Mb (megabytes) of Ram.
- Your Hard Drive is full or close to it.
- Your processor has less than 2 GHz(gigahertz) processing speed.
- You don't have a CD-Rom.
- The Last "State of The Art" Game you played was Frogger.

There is an easy way to check on most of the things listed above, If you right click on your "My Computer" icon, then select properties it

Winter finally appeared!
 Having been born in Michigan I am a true 4 season being. As I get older, I must admit I do notice the cold more, however I still love to take time outdoors in the snow, especially with my grandchildren. This weekend we built our first snowman of the season and took time to go ice skating downtown. I can't imagine



living anywhere else but here. We have many blessing in this wonderful and diverse State!

Pava

February 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Feb. 2-5 MI International AUTO SHOW at DeVos Place			1	2 Groundhog Day	3 Kimberly's Party	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
Feb. 15-19 Boat Show at DeVos Place						
19	20 President's Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	Have some family outdoor fun. Build a snowman, go sledding or ice skating!			

To Upgrade... Continued

will tell you the Processor speed, Ram speed, and Video Card speed. Now for all those interested in increasing the power of their computer there are a few things you can do. However, just about everything short of buying a new computer will require you to either A: have some knowledge of PC hardware, or B: take your computer to a professional to have them install the upgrades for you. I am sure most of you already know that the latter of those two options is quite expensive, if you don't know the right people. Computer work today can cost anywhere from \$100 an hour up too \$300 an hour. I know none of us are really interested in spending that much just to get another year of life out of our computers. We think for as much as we would spend getting an upgrade we might as well buy a new PC. But again I tell you "Fear Not" because in the upcoming issues of Due Diligence I will give complete walkthrough's on how to install your own upgrades for a fraction of the cost of having a professional do it. However if some of you simply can't wait till the next issue, feel free to call me at the office with any questions you might have.



Going For The Gold

It looks like Grand Rapids has an Olympian in their midst, Kimberly Derrick, of Caledonia has been selected for the 2006 winter Olympics. Kimberly began skating at the age of 6, currently holding 8 gold medals in national championships. She is going for the Gold against skaters from all over the world. Kimberly's Dad has coached her from the start of her career until 3 years ago when she went into Ice Speed Skating. Now Kenneth and Holly (Dad & Mom) are trying to get to the Olympics so they can support their daughter. They are having a fundraiser on the 3rd of February from 7pm to 1am. It's \$7.00 to get in at the door, or \$5 in advance. The party will be located at the Crossing, formerly the Westwood Ranch. Please consider helping this family out and allowing Kimberly's parents to be there as she races for her dreams. Donations are appreciated if you cannot attend. For more information please call (616) 893-7311.



GO KIMBERLY and the rest of the USA Athletes!!

Who's Calling?

Cell phone numbers are being released publicly, to include telemarketing companies. Sales calls could start this month *on your cell phone*. You could be charged for the calls! To prevent calls, dial the following number from your cell phone: **1-888-382-1222**. It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will take only a minute of your time. It blocks your number for 5 years.

This call is for any phone number not just cell numbers. The call must be made from the number you want to have blocked.

You can also go to www.donotcall.gov to opt out or lodge a complaint against a company that calls you. It takes 31 days to be effective and stop calls.

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Have You Seen! By Dennis Schimke

The end of winter is near and so are the local home improvement shows! These are 'do not miss' events for everyone from homeowners to renters planning to be a homeowner someday. These shows are a great way to see, in person, what thousands of creative individuals have dreamed up and brought to market during the past year.

Did you know for example that the refrigerator is expected to be the most intelligent item in the home? (And I thought I was.)



Formica now offers beautiful copper and steel look embossed surfaces, yet natural stone is still the most popular countertop, unless you prefer the new recycled glass look to go with your bamboo cabinets and your new actual leather floor tiles.

Concerned the kids are too rough on the cabinet drawers? Try out the ones impossible to slam.

Ovens now have a microwave drawer for kids. Trouble bending over or not much extra space? Raised dishwashers and clothes washers eliminate the need for a person to stoop over or purchase that washer/dryer combo in one.



For the ultimate coffee connoisseur, there are built-in coffee makers designed for the master bath. Wall mount bathroom sink faucets

and surface mount sinks are a hot item, especially if you have the slim, sleek new hot water heater to heat those extra long showers.



Exterior walls are being built from Styrofoam blocks, not 2x4's. To top it off, steel is now being used for long wear shingles and looks just like regular shingles.

Tired of the deck and fence repairs? Build them entirely from man-made materials, in many shades or colors, and they are maintenance free!

Local shows include: Grand Rapids 2006 show at the Delta Plex the first weekend in February (www.GGRHBA.com for more information.) Great Lakes Downs will host the Muskegon show on March 9, 10, & 11 (www.shorelinebuildersassociation.com.)

Contact your local builders association for details on other shows in your area or check out the web.

Drawing Winners

Congratulations Lindsay Galer and Filipina Timbad, the winners from our booth at a recent Bridal Show! Since identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America, the winners, received paper shredders in order to help protect them. We encourage the safe and secure destruction of any unnecessary paperwork which contains your personal information. An added benefit? Shredded papers make great garden mulch!



Quote Corner by Holly Gosko

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, "I used everything you gave me."



Erma Bombeck