

Laptop Repair

Due to the decrease in price and the increase in quality, laptops are turning out to be a good alternative over a desktop system. However you should always weigh the pros and cons before purchasing a new computer. If you need portability, a laptop is the only way to go. Laptops do have some serious drawbacks though. A comparable laptop will always cost more than a comparable desktop. In addition, laptops will never perform as well as an equally rated desktop. Lastly, laptop repairs always cost more than desktop repairs. It's this last point I want to discuss with you today.

In general, laptops will always cost more than a desktop system when repairs become necessary. Most desktop systems, even the name brand ones, use fairly universal parts. With a few modifications, an off the shelf ATX desktop motherboard can be fitted to practically any name brand computer. Laptop manufacturers, however, never developed any kind of standard. In fact, it's not unusual for even one particular laptop brand to have hundreds of different models with thousands of different parts. Due to this wide diversity, a replacement laptop motherboard can easily cost \$400 while a comparable desktop board might not cost more than \$100.

At the Computer Depot we see a wide range of common laptop repairs. The three most common we see have to do with dim screens, broken power jacks, and spilled liquid in the keyboard. Dim screens are generally caused by just a couple of faulty components. Most repair shops want to replace the entire screen at a cost of \$400 or more. However, the Computer Depot can determine whether the CCFL light has gone bad and if it has your repair cost would just be \$195, parts and labor included. Other times, the inverter may be causing the problem. This type of repair can cost as little as \$100, a far cry from a \$400 screen. Of course if your screen is actually cracked and broken, then you have no choice but to replace the screen.

Broken power jacks have been an increasing problem for laptop users. Many folks are not careful when their laptop is plugged into its adapter and may yank the cord out of the laptop. I have seen this practice break the power jack on laptops. In the past the only solution was to replace the entire laptop motherboard. However, in recent times third party vendors have been selling replacement jacks that can be soldered on to the original motherboard. This type of repair is not for the faint of heart, however the technicians at Computer Depot have been trained on this skill and can replace practically any jack for \$195 saving you up to 50% off the cost of a new motherboard.

It's so easy to do. Your working on your laptop at your desk drinking coffee and bam, the mug gets docked over into your keyboard. First off, don't panic. Use your power switch to immediately turn off the laptop and then flip it upside down and let the liquid drain out. At this point, I would not even try to power it back on until it is dry, 4-6 hours. Most likely you will find that keyboard no longer works. The good news is this is generally the least expensive type of laptop repair. Laptop keyboards can some times be as cheap as \$100 installed.

Although the Computer Depot can fix practically any laptop problem, it is important to remember that most laptop parts are special order and may take 3 to 7 days to get them in. If you are having a computer related problem, don't hesitate to call the professionals at Computer Depot. You can reach Thomas, Roger, or Aaron by calling 947-0749.