

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This month I would like to touch the **Total Upgrade Cost**.

I'm sure that many of you, like me, are getting mail, email, or even phone calls with offers to upgrade some software that you use to run your business with. Some upgrades offer new features that make running the business easier, or the software company may no longer be supporting the version of software you have. They may even offer you a very good deal on the upgrade price! But before you say yes to the upgrade you need to look at the requirements of the new software and see if you will need to upgrade or replace hardware. All software companies will give you the minimum requirements for hardware and the recommended requirements to be able to run their software. Don't even think that you'll like running on the minimum required hardware, unless you have plenty of time or need to make frequent trips to the coffee machine. I usually take the recommended requirements increase them by 1.5 to 2 times to give me plenty of capacity to run other programs at the same time.

In the pass few months I've had 2 clients ask me what it would cost to upgrade their systems to handle new/upgrade software. In both cases their hardware was 4 to 5 years old and the operating systems (Windows) and other applications were about the same age. The new/upgrade software required the replacement of not only the servers but all of the workstation. In one case the new/upgrade software cost was \$1,000.00 and the new system (server, workstations, other software, etc.) was \$12,000.00. The client went ahead with the upgrade as he could justify the cost through productivity savings. In the other case, the software was \$500.00 and the new system was \$4,000.00. Here the client did not go for the upgrade as they couldn't justify the cost.

It really does make a difference to do some homework and maybe consult with an IT Professional to determine the Total Upgrade Cost before you jump on the sweet upgrade offer.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer to, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.