



MONITOR SPECIFICATIONS - WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN

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SOLID STATE MEMORY NEW FASTER HARD DISKS

A USB Flash drive is a solid state memory device that does not require a power source, fitted with a USB interface. They are now one of the most widely used devices in the IT world. The first USB drive was released by IBM on December 15, 2000 and had a capacity of 8Mb – today we are able to acquire drives with up to 64Gb of storage space, some 8,000x the original capacity in only 8 years. Not only has the size dramatically increased, but the price has taken a huge tumble with 1Gb drives now as low as \$5.

Over the next few years size will continue to increase, with several companies planning on releasing 128Gb and 256Gb drives very soon. Pricing will not vary a great deal with the entry level still being \$5-20 and the high end \$200-500, however 2Gb will replace 1Gb as the entry level and so forth. A rapid size increase over the coming few years is predicted with the expectation that

a 1Tb (1,000Gb) drive will be available sometime in 2012.



This will have a rollover affect on other types of flash drive media such as SD and Compact Flash cards, and an even bigger impact on the traditional hard drive with these being replaced by SSD (Solid State Drives).

SSD is a new form of hard drive based on flash media with no moving parts – therefore a quieter, more power efficient drive, which is great for notebooks, as it extends battery life. Currently they are still relatively expensive and only available in smaller sizes (maximum 128Gb), however in the coming months these too will increase in size and decrease in price, enabling them to

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REMOTE SUPPORT

Often the aspteam log into a user's computer and take it over to perform tasks and fix problems, however because we're not physically sitting at the computer, there has been some confusion about how this works.

We cannot log in if the computer is switched off, or disconnected from the network, and if the user logs back onto the computer while we are working on it, we lose access. If this happens, we will try to reconnect, so please don't close the windows and programs we have been working with, or this will require us to start from scratch.

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ASP RECOMMENDS - SONICWALL TZ190



The SonicWALL TZ 190/TZ 190W is a network appliance with an amazing array of capabilities and features. The 190 supports dual internet links and Wireless broadband (3G), and features Firewall and Unified Threat Management Security functionality, VoIP configuration options and eight network ports. The 190W has all of this, plus wireless network. Without question, this device is designed to do more than your typical small network device.

The SonicWALL TZ 190W is small considering all the power it has under its hood. It measures only 25cm wide and 17cm deep, while standing only 3cm high. The front panel has simple indicator lights for power and status, as well as signal and activity lights for it's various features.

A primary feature of the TZ 190 is its support for wireless broadband services. The device can use a wireless broadband card as its main Internet service or as a backup to a standard broadband internet service, which is a low cost way of having a redundant internet connection, and eliminates the possibility of loosing all your internet connections to the backhoe operator outside your building who just cut through your telephone lines. The current Telstra, Optus and Vodafone PC Express 3G cards are all supported.

The SonicWALL TZ 190 provides Unified Threat Management (UTM), a combination of Anti-Virus, Anti-Spyware, and Intrusion Prevention Services. The TZ 190 also includes Content Filtering, which enables an administrator

to block access to objectionable websites. All of these UTM services are subscription-based services, but SonicWALL gives you a 30-day free trial once you've registered the appliance.

The device supports two levels of VPN, or Virtual Private Network, giving it the flexibility to be able to work with many different kinds of equipment at the other end of the VPN tunnel.

Overall, this single networking device provides an abundance of features that are actually useful for businesses. The TZ 190W truly is the Swiss Army Knife of small business networking!

SIX WORD STORY

Tick tock tick tock tick tick.

- Neal Stephenson

SOLID STATE MEMORY

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replace the current "moving disk" hard drive technology.

Advantages of USB Flash Drives are little or no moving parts, impervious to dust and scratches and they are light and very portable. Disadvantages are that

they have limited read, write and erase cycles before failure, most do not have write protect capabilities and they are often misplaced due the small size.

It must also be noted that due to the low cost, small size and ease

of use of the drives, there has been an increase of corporate espionage and companies are now looking into ways of limiting the use of USB Drives internally – this can be achieved through some standard tools included in Microsoft Server 2008.

ASP TESTS - LG 19" SCREENS

LCD Screens have become standard, but apart from size, what do you need to look for when purchasing a new screen?

We took a look at 3 LG screens - the L1919S-S, the standard option, the L1954TQ-PF, the premium option, and the L1930BQ, a 3 year old model for comparison.

The specs show what you would expect - the newer screens have far better contrast and response times than the 3 year old model and the premium screen is better than the standard. But can a person tell the difference?

The design of the new screens is sleeker, and our reviewer preferred



the gloss black finish of the premium model over the standard matt silver. The display of the premium screen was noticeably better and far easier on the eyes than the other two with the same display resolution, indicating that the contrast ratio does make a difference to everyday use.

The refresh rate and viewing angle didn't make a difference during regular office use, and the premium model was less than 10% more energy efficient than the standard.

In the LG range we'd recommend the premium model, based solely on the fantastic display, but if you're looking at other brands, consider the contrast ratio.

I want it - how can I get it?

The LG L1954TQ-PF and L1919S-S and SonicWALL TZ190 range are available from asp - please contact us to discuss the best product for your needs.

aspadvisor

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October in Tech History

On October 22, 1797, Andre-Jacques Garnerin was the first person to test a parachute. He leapt from a balloon and fell 700 meters to the ground. The oscillations were violent enough to make him vomit, but he survived.

Russia experienced it's first traffic jam on October 15, 1941. As German troops approached Moscow, those elite in the supposedly class-less Soviet State that had cars tried to leave - all at once.

The Space Race began on October 4th 1957 with the launch of Sputnik, the first man-made satellite to orbit the Earth. Fearful that the Russians were far ahead, US educational curriculum was revised to emphasize science and math.



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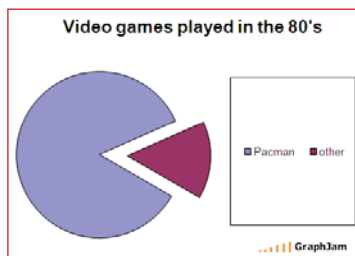


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VAGUELY INTERESTING FUNNY GRAPHS

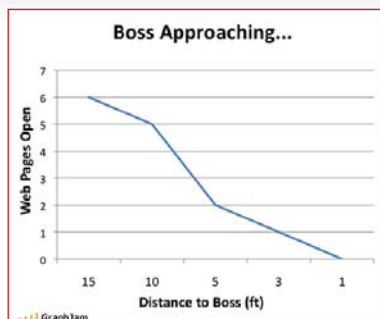
Graphs are not usually considered entertaining. They are the stuff of maths lessons and budgets, and rarely represent anything fun.



The people at Graph Jam see graphs a little differently, and as these diagrams show, are getting a laugh out of them.

All the tools to create your own graph are available on the website, and you can upload and share your graphs with the world.

The site is full of graphs showing everything from the availability of spirits at Hotel California, to the probability of getting any work done once you log onto the site.



Check it out for yourself at www.graphjam.com

ASP BYTES: POT ROASTED RED BEEF CURRY

1.5 kg Beef Topside or Bolar (whole)
S&P
2 to 3 large knobs butter & Splashes of Olive oil
3 x medium brown onion, peeled and rough cut
4 x cloves garlic, peeled and sliced thin
1 x small fresh red chilli, halved, deseeded, thinly sliced
10 curry leaves
100g (+/-) Thai Red Curry Paste – good quality
1 x Cup Beef Stock
2 x 400 ml cans coconut milk
2 x Limes cut into wedges

Preheat the oven to 180° C and heat up your casserole dish on the cook top while you prep.

Season beef generously with salt and pepper and set aside. In the casserole dish, splash in the olive oil and throw in a knob of butter. Toss the onion, garlic and chilli in and sweat off until the onion is just translucent, then pour in the Red Curry paste and fry for a moment – once all combined, remove mixture from the pan.

Add the remaining butter and another splash of oil in the pan, then brown off all sides of the beef. Once done, throw the onion/curry mix back in with the remaining ingredients. Bring to a light boil, place on the lid and put in the oven for 35 minutes. At the 35 min mark, remove the lid from the dish and leave for a further 10 minutes.

Once done, remove from the oven, take the beef from dish and allow to rest for 5 to 10 minutes in a warm spot. If the sauce is too "wet", place the dish back on the heat and reduce a tad. Carve the beef and arrange on a warmed platter with the sauce napped over the top. Serve with rice and the lime wedges.

Yield: 6 servings
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 50-60 minutes
Difficulty: Easy

This recipe is nice & quick and simple as well as being a little funky. Also, pot-roasting the beef as opposed to making a standard red curry stew makes the flavours just that little bit different as well.

