



## NEW LAPTOP TECHNOLOGY CHARGE WITHOUT CABLES

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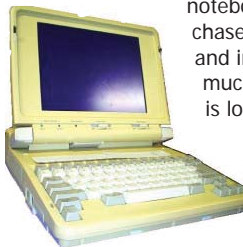
### SUCCESSION PLANNING WHEN TO REPLACE A LAPTOP

Companies are being tempted to hang onto their notebook computers for a couple of years past the normal three-year life cycle, to avoid the up front cost of replacing them for a little longer.

The three-year cycle is based on manufacturers warranty. Within the warranty period, replacement parts are still available, and the manufacturer has a responsibility to fix any problems or supply replacement parts during this period.

But if the notebook is still working at the end of the three year period, should you chuck it out and buy something new?

A survey done by an American Technology Analyst firm has shown that keeping a notebook past its "prime" can cost organisations more than it would cost to replace it.



The failure rates of hard drives, keyboards, screens and batteries increase dramatically after the third year. Call it built in obsolescence, but the manufacturers do their numbers, and they know it is not cost effective for them to provide warranties past 3 years.

It's a game of chance, and if you're lucky, the notebook may not fail. Your plan might even be to buy a new notebook once the old one fails, so you don't worry about the cost to fix it, and might get another 12 months before needing to make that capital outlay.

In this scenario, downtime must be taken into consideration - while the new notebook is purchased, configured and installed, how much productivity is lost? Perhaps none - perhaps the filing finally gets done. But even if

...continued page 2

### SLIGHT MISCOUNT

Apologies to all the readers out there who found the mistake on the front page of the October edition of aspadvisor.

We promised 6 Outlook tips, and yet the article contained only 5.

Tip No. 6 is: **Eliminate Add-Ons**  
Adding toolbars and search programs to Outlook can slow it down, and whatever you do, don't install Smileys. You may download those little faces to brighten your day, but they will slow down Outlook, your computer, and in some cases the whole network, and they definitely don't make the aspteam happy!

### IN THIS ISSUE

asp tests:  
WD TV Live

----

asp recommends:  
Dell Latitude Z

----

Six Word Story

----

asp bytes:  
Orange & Almond Cake

----

Vaguely Interesting -  
Internet v Carrier Pigeon:  
Pigeon Wins

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Back Issues available from  
apps.com.au

## ASP RECOMMENDS - DELL LATITUDE Z

The new Dell Latitude Z laptop has some features that we've not seen before, which look to be a big step forward for laptop technology.

First the basics - the Latitude Z sports a 16" wide screen, and weighs just under 2kg. It comes with either Windows Vista or Windows 7 (which can be downgraded to XP - but why would you?), and can have either 2 or 4GB Memory. The hard drives are solid state - and yes, that's not a typo, you can have 2 hard drives. Being solid state, they are smaller than their traditional spinning cousins, with the standard drive at 64GB, and options for 128Gb & 256Gb Encrypted drives at additional cost. Solid state is faster than the traditional hard drive, so there will be advantages & disadvantages.

Of course, much of that can be found in other laptops, but there are a number of unique features that set this laptop apart.

Order with the optional webcam, and the laptop has "facial recognition security" which will lock the computer if you're no longer in front of it.

The webcam also acts as a scanner. A user can literally hold a document or business card up to the screen, and the webcam will scan the information, entering business cards into Outlook, and saving documents to PDF.

Charging the Latitude Z involves placing it on the wireless inductive charging stand - there's nothing to plug in. It's a beautifully simple solution - actually getting the charging stand is another story.

Currently, it's only available in the US, and while the laptop released in Australia has the technology in built, the stand has yet to be approved for sale here. If and when it is approved and released, the Latitude Z will be the first laptop to charge wirelessly.



### SIX WORD STORY

The Shark swam faster than him.

- Anthony

## SUCCESSION PLANNING

...continued from page 1

it doesn't fail, and keeps working for another 2 or even 3 years, productivity is lost. A new computer will be faster. It doesn't take as long to open programs, to save, to print. It can do more tasks at once and can keep more programs open without slowing down. In some cases, it can run new or updated software that the previous system could not, software that is faster, does

more or does the job better. This difference in productivity was estimated in the American study as being worth US\$9,600 per person per year. While the figure may seem exaggerated, a replacement notebook, in most cases, would cost one third of that annual amount, and would increase productivity for 3 years.

There's a silver lining to this report. Until 31st December 2009, the federal government tax rebate for equipment purchase is still in effect, and can be used on purchases of new notebooks. If you're waiting for a notebook to expire, take a look at the numbers - there won't be a better time to replace it than right now.

# ASP TESTS - WD TV LIVE

HD video, photos and music -- they're on your computer, your USB drives, and the Internet. The WD TV Live media player, makes it easy to view all of this content on your TV.

WD TV Live supports a wide variety of the most popular video, music and picture file formats and can access files from USB storage devices, digital cameras and camcorders. The Ethernet network port connects the player to your home network through a wired connection or via supported WiFi adapters (sold separately) so you can play media from any PC or drive on your home network.



You can create custom slide shows of your photos with a variety of transitions and background music. Fast forward, rewind, pause, zoom, and pan your videos with subtitles if needed and with all your media, you can search by filename, partial filename, most recently viewed and date.

You can even watch YouTube videos from your lounge room with this device, as it uses your internet connection to access the video sharing site, as well as photo sharing site Flickr. You can also stream music from thousands of internet radio stations.

The tiny, simple to use WD TV Live is one of the best media players on the market, especially when you bring cost into the equation. It excels at bringing just about any media to your TV, so it's no longer trapped on your PC.

## November in Tech History

Windows 7 was released last month, but Windows 1.0 was originally released on November 20, 1985. Bill Gates threw the launch party for Windows 1.0 a little early, on November 10, 1983. The cocky young Microsoft chief predicted it would be running on 90% of all IBM-compatible PCs by the end of 1984.

John Ambrose Fleming invented the vacuum tube on November 16, 1904. The tube was standard equipment in radio receivers, early television sets and other forms of electronic communication until it was replaced by solid-state electronics in the mid-20th century, which we still use today.

On November 12, 1946, in an arithmetic contest held in Tokyo by the United States Army, a Japanese abacus user defeated an electric calculator used by a US Soldier in 4 out of 5 rounds.

## I want it - how can I get it?

The Dell Latitude Z is available from [www.dell.com.au](http://www.dell.com.au). The WD TV Live is available at Dick Smith Electronics, JB HiFi and other electronics retailers.

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## VAGUELY INTERESTING INTERNET v CARRIER PIGEON: PIGEON WINS

Whenever somebody makes a silly offhand comment, there is somebody to take it that little bit further. That is exactly what happened when Kevin Rudd attacked the Liberal Party's opposition to the proposed split of Telstra in parliament with the comment "If the Liberals had their way Australians would be left using carrier pigeons for the future rather than accessing an internationally competitive broadband network"

Possibly unbeknownst to Rudd, such a comparison had been made in South Africa previously, with a South African ISP racing a

carrier pigeon against their internet speed. The pigeon won.

Taking all this information on board, ABC's Hungry Beast program decided to pit a carrier pigeon against Telstra's ADSL Broadband, and threw in a car for good measure.

The race involved transferring a 700Mb file from Tarana in Rural New South Wales to Prospect, 132 kilometres away.

The pigeon arrived first clocking in at one hour and five minutes, the car two hours and ten minutes and the internet dropped

out twice and didn't complete the transfer at all. When the upload began on the internet connection the estimated transfer time was between four and nine hours.

Australia's average internet speed currently ranks 26th in the world, between Turkey & the Czech Republic, and four places behind New Zealand. But carrier pigeons won't be replacing email any time soon - you can't send one from your iPhone.



## ASP BYTES: ORANGE & ALMOND CAKE

I've been wanting to put this one in for a while but haven't as it takes a bit of time to make, however this cake is simple, fresh and is easy to make. It is a great sweet that is a real crowd pleaser as it is a refreshing desert that fits well at the end of a BBQ, a Dinner Party or just to serve with coffee.

3 Oranges  
9 Eggs  
350g Caster Sugar  
350g Almond Meal  
1tsp Baking Powder  
Extra Caster Sugar for dusting before baking  
Icing Sugar for dusting after baking  
Margarine or oil spray (for greasing the tin)  
Lined 20cm Spring Form Cake Tin

Wash and place Oranges into a medium sized saucepan; add enough Water to the pan so that the Oranges are swimming. Cover with parchment paper and a lid and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low, and cook the Oranges for approximately 2 hours, topping up the Water if required. Discard poaching liquid and allow Oranges to completely cool. This can be done before hand if you don't have the time.

Trim off the "greeny" bits at the top and bottom of the Oranges and take out the seeds. Using a food processor, blend Oranges to a coarse paste. Set aside until required. With an electric beater, cream the Eggs and Sugar until light and fluffy. Add Almond Meal, Baking Powder and Orange puree, and mix to combine.



Pour mixture into a greased and lined 20 cm Spring Form Cake Tin, dust with Caster Sugar and bake in a pre-heated 190°C oven for approximately 45 minutes. Allow to cool and dust again with Icing Sugar just before cutting and serving. Slice the cake, and serve with a dollop of the Thick Unsweetened Cream.

Yield: 10 - 12 servings  
Prep Time: 15 minutes  
Cook Time: 2 hours Oranges  
45 minutes Cake  
Difficulty: Easy but time consuming