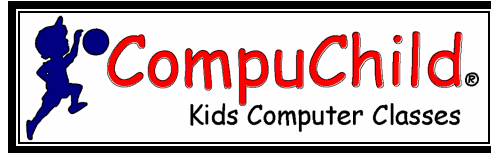


CompuChild Chatter



Winter 2006

Old Computer?

This time of year many people update the technology they use at the office or at home. At CompuChild, we are often asked what to do with "old" computers. Here are some things to consider.

There are three reasons why finding the appropriate way to discard old computer equipment is important:

- According to the U.S. EPA, nearly 250 million computers will become obsolete in the next five years. In 2001, only 11 percent of personal computers retired in the U.S. were recycled.
- Each computer dumped in a landfill is a missed opportunity to provide Information Age tools to people across the digital divide.
- Out-of-date computer systems can be more of a burden than a blessing to schools and nonprofits, as it can cost them up to \$400 to bring a pre-Pentium computer up to today's standards. Donate these very out of date computers to a recycler or refurbisher, rather than directly to these other groups.

Please provide the following information to organizations before donating your computer:

- If it is in good working order
- Brand name and model number
- Year bought
- Megabytes (MB) of RAM
- Hard drive size in megabytes (MB) or gigabytes (GB)
- Megahertz (MHz) processor speed
- What licensed software goes with the computer, and are the original CDs available

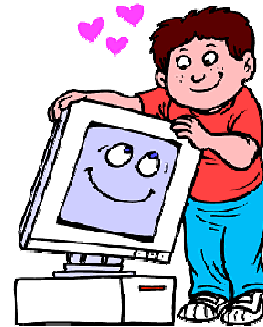
You can ask organizations in your local community if they would be interested in your computer, or you can contact a national organization like the ones below. Be sure to erase your computer completely before donating it.

Youth for Technology: www.youthfortechology.org

National Cristina Foundation: www.cristina.org/dsf

**It's never too late to
join CompuChild!
No registration fees!**

Happy New Year!



Our Students Love CompuChild!

Your child will not only learn valuable technology terminology and skills, but we also teach lessons incorporating Microsoft Word, Digital Camera, Printers and more!

Where are classrooms headed, and how can CompuChild help?

Recently on www.msnbc.com, there was a story about elementary schools in North Dakota and Kansas whose students are using hand-held PDAs (personal digital assistants, i.e. Palm Pilots) as the latest tool in the educational toolbox. The use of these devices in the classroom is ballooning nationwide as the digital classroom becomes reality. Assignments are beamed between students and teachers. Electronic quizzes are given in classrooms equipped for wireless technology. Some teachers find it helps them reach students who struggle with traditional instruction methods. Already, districts are beginning to save money purchasing electronic content instead of printed books. But it's difficult for a teacher with 28 young students in the class who is already teaching the normal curriculum to also teach the skills needed to take advantage of these changes. Children who come to school with solid computer skills, such as **CompuChild** students, stand to benefit most from this evolution in the classroom.