

What a great day it was !!

Those magnificent men from the IT Department arrived with a brand new PC only half the size of the one that you used to have parked on your desk and a sleek and sexy new flat screen monitor that was bigger, better and brighter.

With barely a second glance, you dismissed the 'boat anchor' and that 'small screen' which only 2 years ago had been leading edge.

You were breathless with anticipation.

Let's face it you couldn't wait to get your hands on your new hardware to see what it could do ?, how much faster would it run ?, How many more *rams* and *roms* and *gigs* you had at your disposal ? And boy I bet that internet connection will be grease lightning !

But what happens to the superseded, unwanted, and unloved computer equipment after it's taken away ? Well, nothing usually.

In Perth office the equipment is ferried to the basement where it sits until we run out of space and are forced to do something about it. We tell ourselves that we have kept it 'just in case' or as 'back-up' but in reality the equipment has been discarded and will never be used again.

Such was the case when we embarked upon a major clean-up of the basement last week.

- We had an enormous amount of old equipment that we wanted to get rid of.
- We didn't want to simply throw it in the rubbish bin because whilst it wasn't suitable for us it could be of use to someone else.
- We saw some value, but to who ?

Enter Corporate Express, who supplies us with our new computers, and a little known recycling service that they operate.

In anticipation of new laws being introduced in 2007, that makes it illegal to throw computer hardware into landfill, Corporate Express has introduced a recycling programme whereby they;

- Collect all unwanted items, for which they charge a fee.
- Report back with a detailed list of items and serial numbers to enable asset register updates.

- Clean all casings and remove tell tale company stickers.
- Scrub hard drives to prevent access to any sensitive information [deleting the data does not remove it, simply hides it].
- Forward equipment in working order to a network of resellers, from which we receive the revenue.
- Disassemble broken items into recyclable components and distribute to authorised recyclers.

The **great** news is that Corporate Express experience is that the whole exercise generally results in a break-even commercial situation which is an excellent result for Corporate Express, the Company and the environment.

So what was the tally for the day ?

- 48 monitors,
- 24 PC's,
- 10 laptops,
- 26 printers,
- 100 keyboards [they were breeding]
- 30 mouses [or is that mice],
- And literally miles and miles of assorted cables.



So, next time those magnificent men from the IT Department visit you – ask what the plan is for your pre-loved PC – before you test drive the new love of your life.