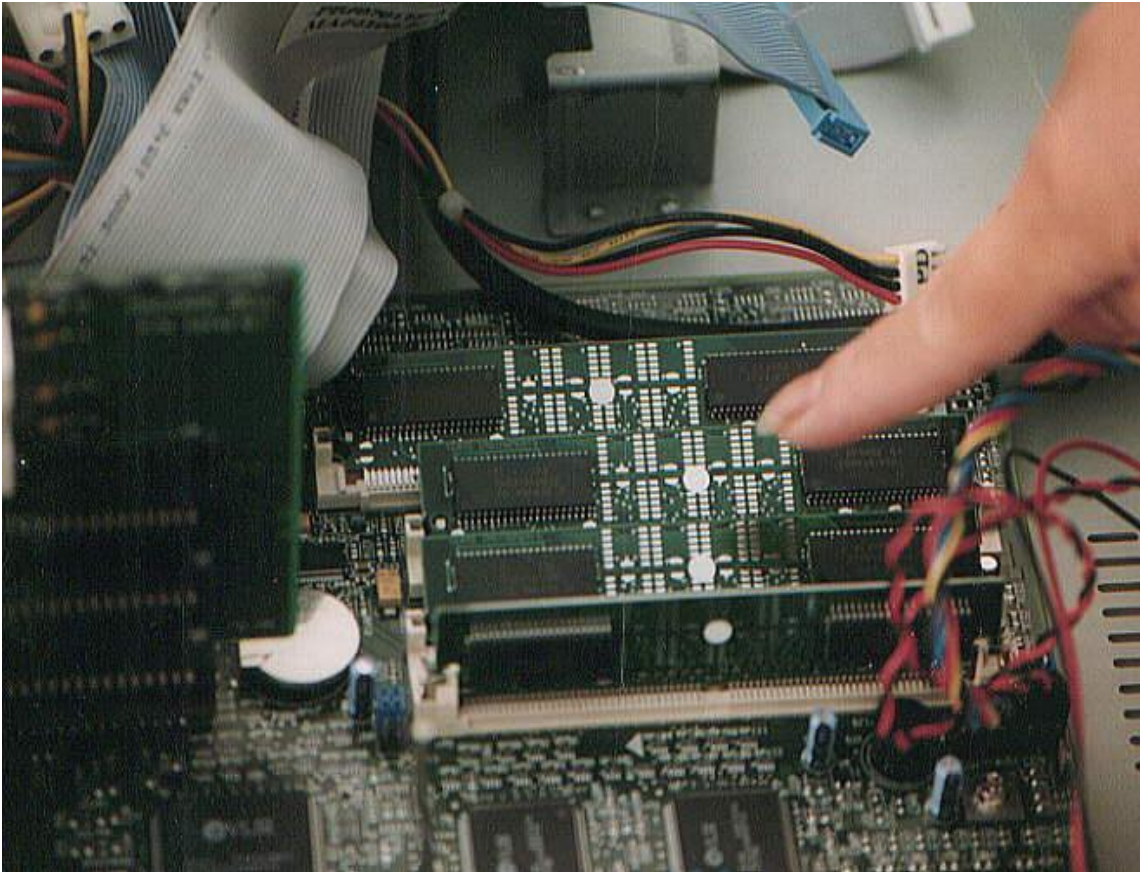


## WHEN SHOULD YOU CONSIDER UPGRADING YOUR OLD PC



To determine which path might be better for your computer system, it is best to look at a cost comparison of what you will get out of each of the two options.

We think the best rule of thumb is that upgrades should typically be done if the costs of the upgrades will be roughly half of the cost of getting a new system. This is just a guideline based on most upgrades giving you a functional lifespan of roughly half of what replacement will get you.

The advantage that desktop PCs have is a greater amount of upgrades that can be made to them compared to a laptop computer.

The problem is that with so many components that can be upgraded, the costs of upgrades can quickly outpace the cost of replacement.

So just what are the hidden costs of upgrading, and they are there? The price tag of your new system isn't the only cost -- there is also the time, energy, and money to migrate your information to your new equipment.

If you're thinking of upgrading just so you can have the latest gear loaded with all the bells and whistles, stop. Unless you have a solid business case for upgrading, your money will be better spent elsewhere.

When is a good solid rule of thumb to: Upgrade? You have to consider this, the cost of not upgrading exceeds the cost of

upgrading. New hardware should help you work faster and more efficiently. Or maybe you need to upgrade your hardware to run new software applications that will improve productivity.

If that's the case, upgrading is your best bet. Similar situations include a broken PC, one that crashes regularly, or otherwise keeps you from doing the work you need to do. Clearly, in each of these cases, it will cost you more to put off the upgrade than to go ahead with it.

## **SHOULD I UPGRADE OR BUY A NEW PC**

