

SLOW COMPUTER GUIDE

What To Do Before Replacing a Slow Computer

A plain-English decision guide for deciding whether a slow computer needs cleanup, repair, upgrade, or replacement.

Practical guidance

Do not replace hardware too quickly

A slow computer can be caused by startup programs, low storage, failing drives, malware, insufficient memory, old software, background sync tools, or hardware age. Replacing it may be right, but it is not always the first step.

What to check first

Check free disk space. Restart the computer. Review startup apps. Install updates. Confirm antivirus status. Check drive health. Review memory usage. Test whether slowness happens in one application or everywhere. Make sure important data is backed up before deeper work.

Repair, upgrade, or replace

If the computer has a failing drive, cannot run supported software, or costs too much time to keep alive, replacement may be smarter. If it only needs memory, storage, cleanup, or software fixes, repair may be more practical.

Quick checklist

- Confirm data is backed up
- Check free disk space
- Review startup programs
- Install pending updates
- Check antivirus status
- Review memory and drive health
- Compare repair cost against replacement value

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