

## Willie's Wonkey Computer Factory

In April we looked at cleaning out some start-up programs to speed up your computer. Going by the feedback received it worked well for some but had little effect for others. Ok, lets look at another option - particularly if your computer is a few years old now it would benefit greatly from some extra memory. RAM (Random Access Memory) is what the computer uses when running, it is working memory, not storage. Increasing this can make considerable difference to your computer's speed. It does mean opening the case but it is probably the simplest upgrade you will ever do. The easiest way is to go to [www.crucial.com/uk](http://www.crucial.com/uk) and from there download a small scanner program that will test your computer and tell you not only what memory is in it, but how it is laid out and how much more it is capable of handling. (yes there is a limit). Works for Apple Macs too. Crucial will then display the memory modules it has available and guarantees 100% compatibility with lifetime warranty. I don't think you can buy better much cheaper elsewhere and the price includes next day 1st class postage.

If running XP look to upgrade to a minimum of 1Gb (Gigabyte). If Vista, I run mine on 4Gb. The scanner will tell you how many slots you have and how many are free. It may be necessary to remove say a 256Mb strip of memory to free up a slot and replace it with a 1Gb. (1000Mb)

The advantage of Crucial is it has fantastic easy to follow instructions with photos in its Support pages. Everything from opening the case, locating the memory and replacing/adding to it. The memory just clicks into place. The main thing to remember is to stay earthed. Static electricity can damage memory modules so touch something metal before you start.

When you restart your computer you should notice a difference and for probably less than £30 will probably save you from forking out for a new computer....for now anyway. If you find this too daunting, simply pop into the local computer shop, the advice will be free but there may be a small fitting charge if you buy their memory. Good luck and enjoy the new performance.

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