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2019 New Tower Computer

2019-6-4: My (John Nash) current primary “working” machine, called J6, is a Sept 2011 tower, which has served me well and is still a useful and well-balanced computer for my needs.

Needs

- a lot of management of files, since I have a goodly collection of computer archives, having been involved with building and using computers since 1961, and I have managed to preserve many of the files, as well as materials from my academic career, my creative writing, folk dance, and personal and family history material.
- some computation (i.e., scientific computing), as well as specialized text processing, which can be intensive but is NOT gaming; I also do some scripting as well as programming for math/stat.
- much communication activity (web, email, video chat, ftp/ssh)
- some investigation of other distros (even –horrors– non-Linux) using VMs under VirtualBox
- some photo, audio and video editing, but mainly of the snip-and-glue variety

Likes

I like a fairly big screen. At one time J6 had two monitors, a 24“ HDMI and a 20” VGA, but I've found just the 24“ is fine. Smaller screens (as on my laptops) are not as helpful for writing and programming. I use headphones for audio – no fancy speakers.

I also like a decent keyboard as I am a touch typist. However, it is useful to have a numeric pad. While I'm happy with a lot of pointing devices, I find a mouse easiest, and use my left hand for this, though I am right handed. This seems to avoid some wrist stress I had a decade ago when a friend suggested this simple change. (It also inhibits folk from using your computer!)

Current machine

J6 has the following very edited setup:

- Motherboard GA-890GPA-UD3H
- AMD Phenom™ II X6 1090T Processor
- 16GiB System Memory (4*4Gib DIMM 1600 MHz (0.6 ns))
- display RS880 [Radeon HD 4290]
- multimedia RS880 HDMI Audio [Radeon HD 4200 Series]
- RTL8111/8168/8411 PCI Express Gigabit Ethernet Controller
- 2 * 1TB WDC WD1002FAEX-0 in RAID (mirrored) – used as data storage
- 500GB ST3500630AS used for OS and home directory
- 250GB ST3250820A used for holding VM images and similar material
- BD-RE WH16NS40 optical drive (CD, DVD, BlueRay)

Considerations

- Reliability: I probably want reliability more than performance.
- * error-correcting memory?
    - RAID disks; If so, how?

- reasonable speed - probably can use existing 24” monitor (have an old 20“ to use

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with existing machine)
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- probably should NOT use existing disks (2*1TB RAID1), with 2 other

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non-RAID disks, one of which has / and OS. RAID used for data store
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- easy access disk bays - USB3 - do I need other connectors (SATA, FireWire, ??) - Current machine has no Bluetooth. Is it worth it? - Do I need wifi? I prefer wired. - Would like low power profile, esp when idle. - fast operation, but probably via SSD rather than super-fast processor - What amount of memory. Current 16GB, suggest 32, but is 64 better? - value for money.

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