



Get more from your laptop

This month, we show you how to enhance your laptop with essential Best Buy laptop accessories from which.co.uk

Laptops are rapidly replacing desktop PCs as the more attractive option for computer users, letting you wander the house and beyond. We have more than 30 laptop reviews at www.which.co.uk/laptops.

Most laptops don't have great speakers, have smaller hard drives than desktop PCs, and there's little point in wire-free computing if you still need to plug into a telephone socket to access the internet. So, we've put together a list of accessories that help your laptop do more.

Laptops can usually be plugged into a larger monitor at home. This gives you more screen space to work with when using word processors and image-editing software, but still allows you to unplug your laptop and take it with you. You can also add a set of serious PC speakers to this set-up, adding range and volume to games and PC entertainment. And, if you

take photos and edit them on your laptop, then having a photo printer will let you produce sparkling prints of those captured memories when you get back home.

A webcam can be clipped to the top of your laptop screen, enabling you to send video of yourself across the web to friends and family. And a wireless router will let you use your laptop to surf the web from anywhere in the house.

All PCs, including laptops, need security software to prevent internet nasties such as viruses and spam from attacking your files. A Best Buy security suite will keep you up to date on the latest virus threats, while a hard drive for backing up valuable data will ensure that you don't lose everything if your laptop is stolen or broken while you're on the go.

For a selection of Best Buys, see right. Or, for hundreds more choices, go to www.which.co.uk/reviews/computing.

We've put together a list of accessories that help your laptop do more

PC monitor

www.which.co.uk/pcmonitors

59% VIEWSONIC VG2030WM £153

ViewSonic's 20-inch widescreen monitor has above-average picture quality, and it's a good choice for day-to-day tasks such as word processing, surfing the internet or image editing. However it's not the best for viewing video, as screen speed is a little slow. The colour white is reproduced well, and the monitor switches on very quickly from standby.



which? **BEST BUY**

Security software

www.which.co.uk/securitysoftware

87% SYMANTEC NORTON INTERNET SECURITY 2009 £50

Symantec's latest offering boasts regular 'pulse' updates to ensure that you always have the most up-to-date information about the latest viruses.

It is very simple and easy to use – almost everything is set up by default, so you'll only have to start digging around in the settings if you want to make serious changes to the software. If you do need some assistance with the program, the built-in help features are excellent, while user alerts are clear and well designed.

The suite comes with parental control software and identity security, which stops your personal details being uploaded to the internet without you knowing about it.



Upgrade your laptop



Technology editor Matt Bath explains how to add memory to your laptop

Adding extra memory to your laptop is one of the easiest ways to boost its performance and allow you to do more. In our video at www.which.co.uk/laptopmemory Which? technology editor Matt Bath shows you how to increase laptop memory the easy way.



Hard drivewww.which.co.uk/harddrives**73% MAXTOR ONETOUCH 4 PLUS £65**

This is one of the few drives we've tested that you can connect via either a FireWire or a USB connection.

The speed of copying data to and from the drive is good and, with a 750GB capacity, it should be enough to hold the entire contents of your PC's hard drive. The supplied software can perform a complete recovery of all your data in the event of a disaster.

**Computer speakers**www.which.co.uk/computerspeakers**89% LOGITECH Z-5500 DIGITAL £235**

These surround-sound speakers provide well-balanced, good-quality sound output. The speakers aren't perfect for music – and they're not cheap – but they produce a more involved sound than any of the others we've tested. They come with long speaker cables, too, which means you can be more flexible about where you place the rear speakers.



This Linksys router is very easy to set up, so it's good for beginners

Wireless routerwww.which.co.uk/wirelessrouters**75% LINKSYS N ULTRA PLUS WAG160N £70**

This Linksys router is very easy to set up, so it's good for beginners.

Its wireless performance is great, as it uses the newer wireless-N standard that supports higher data rates. It really shines over longer distances, maintaining a strong connection where other models struggle.

This router's security is good, so it's hard to gain unauthorised access.

**Webcam**www.which.co.uk/webcams**76% LOGITECH QUICKCAM PRO 9000 £45**

This is a feature-packed webcam that performs brilliantly, and would be a worthy addition to anyone's laptop.

It has a wide viewing angle and it's easy to set up and use. Its rapid autofocus and face-tracking features work to keep you in the picture at all times, and the high resolution and image quality impressed our testers.

Logitech provides plenty of software for you to play with, so you can mess around with special effects.

The only minor downside is the microphone, which isn't as sensitive as some of the others we've tested, but if you're chatting one-to-one or using a headset microphone you'll have no problems.

**Photo printer**www.which.co.uk/photoprinters**70% SONY DPP-FP95 £143**

This printer prints good quality photos quickly, and is very simple to use. It's a compact model with a handle that makes it easy to carry, though some buttons are left exposed when it's packed away.

It accepts most major types of memory card and has an HDMI connection so you can scroll through your pictures on an HDTV and choose which ones you'd like to print.

There are several basic pre-printing features for editing your pictures, and using these is generally straightforward, except for the slightly confusing cropping function. Pictures can be viewed before printing on a large, colour LCD that can be tilted to reduce glare.



Win a 13-inch Apple MacBook worth £1,125

We are offering two lucky winners the chance to win a 13-inch Apple MacBook.

All you have to do is provide a recommendation for a local service or trader you have used and would like to share with other Which? members (see page 6 for more details).

To enter go to www.which-local.co.uk/bestbuy and provide:

- The name of the service or trader
- The business contact details – phone number and address, for example
- A few words about what's good about the trader.

To enter our Best Buy competition online, go to www.which-local.co.uk/bestbuy or send your entry on a postcard to 'Best Buy March 09', Which?, Gascoyne Way, Hertford SG14 1LH. Include the trader's name, business contact details (eg phone number and address) and a few words about what's good about the trader. Also include your name, address and postcode, daytime phone number and Which? membership number (found on your Which? membership card as your user name). Entries received by 13 March 2009 will be entered. Our competition is open only to current Which? members. Only one entry per household. Usual rules apply. See www.which-local.co.uk/bestbuy for full competition rules.