

Whoa! I Should Have Upgraded To An SSD Last Year

CNET

Today I transformed my 2009 laptop into a machine that feels like it's from 2012.

All I did was rip out its 500GB spinning-rust hard drive from Seagate and popped in a 256GB [Vertex 4 solid-state drive from OCZ](#) [1]. Now I'm kicking myself for not upgrading to an SSD a year ago.

If you're not up to speed on your PC components, here's the [technical background on SSDs vs. HDs](#) [2]. For decades, hard drives handled storage chores by writing data as tiny magnetized patches on spinning platters. SSDs use flash memory chips instead, a design that can retrieve data much faster. The biggest drawback is the price: SSDs cost more and store less than hard drives.

My primary machine is a Retina-era [MacBook Pro](#) [3] with a 256GB SSD, so I'm used to SSDs overall. What I hadn't appreciated was how much life an SSD can breathe into an older machine, in particular since processor performance isn't improving at the rate it once was.

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http://www.wirelessdesignmag.com/news/2013/01/whoa-i-should-have-upgraded-ssd-last-year?qt-digital_editions=0&qt-blogs=0&qt-most_popular=0

Links:

[1] http://reviews.cnet.com/internal-hard-drives/ocz-vertex-4-ssd/4505-9998_7-35182248.html

[2] http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-20067621-1/storage-talk-why-you-should-get-an-ssd-and-keep-your-hdd-too/

[3] <http://www.cnet.com/macbook-pro-13-inch-retina-display/>