

## Re: Realistic spec to run XP

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**From:** Alex Nichol (*alexn.mvpdts\_at\_ntlworld.delete.com*)

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Alan Addison wrote:

- >It would seem that the minimum spec machine needed to run XP is:
- >Pentium 233, 64M RAM, 1.5G HD, 800x600 SVGA, CD-ROM, Keyboard and mouse
- >
- >When I visited a local computer shop the salesbod recommended
- >P4 2.8G, 1G RAM, 60G HD, 3D Graphics card, 3D Sound, DVD writer, keyboard
- >and mouse.
- >
- >He was very insistant that this is the "minimum spec" that I should be
- >looking at.
- >
- >I will be running MS Office, DreamWeaver and MS Visual Studio.

He is exaggerating – as will a lot of people around here. There seems to be a tendency to hide ones extravagance by insisting that the generous machine you have bought is essential. But the basic minimum is way too small. As a practical minimum you need 256 MB and somewhere up over 500MHz CPU. But that is if you are considering whether to install on a machine that exists. For buying a new one, you would be hard pressed to find something under about 2.4 GHz speed. I would regard 512 MB as a practical start point on RAM (it is easy enough to increase later). Hard disks under 60GB are quite difficult to find; personally I like having two separate drives and would put spare cash into that rather than over much RAM or an expensive graphics card (unless you are dedicated to games). Again unless you are into gains or realistic multimedia, a 3D sound system is probably not needed

I would also want more than an 800x600 display – look at a 17 in monitor to use 1024x768; or even an LCD panel at a similar size

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Alex Nichol MS MVP (Windows Technologies)  
Bournemouth, U.K. Alexn@mvp.d8e8l.org (remove the D8 bit)