

## RE: Laptop Considerations

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**From:** Kris Wingard (*kwingard\_at\_synergisticusa.com*)

**Date:** 12/13/04

Date: Mon, 13 Dec 2004 10:20:29 -0500

To: <pen-test@securityfocus.com>

I highly recommend the Latitude D600. I work for a consulting company, and all of our engineers use that model. You're right about the ports, it is so crucial to have parallel/serial/USB in this line of work, and the latitude comes standard with all of them. The built-in wireless works great. As you probably know, Dell has great warranty support if/when you ever need it. I'd say go for it man, you know they'll have great driver support for years to come, so you'll also be able to rebuild with any OS and not have to worry about finding a driver out on the wild web to support your hardware.

-----Original Message-----

From: David Bouchard [mailto:lists@tigercomputersolutions.com]

Sent: Saturday, December 11, 2004 10:47 PM

To: pen-test@securityfocus.com

Subject: Laptop Considerations

I am about to be purchasing a laptop and I was wanting the advice of the list. I know this can be a very personal topic for some people, but I have to throw it out there anyway.

Here's my situation...I'm about to be attending a degree program in Information Assurance and Forensics. I also have my own business doing a variety of things computer related. At some point I would like to delve more heavily into vulnerability assesment, penetration testing, and possibly forensics. I'm looking for a laptop that will be flexible enough to meet all these needs.

This is what my immediate plans for the laptop are: for my business, I need to have some of the basic MS Office suite on it, as well as MS Publisher. I plan on making it into a dual-boot machine with some flavor of linux. I don't care to use a live linux CD because I want to be able to store

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logs,  
settings, and other data onto the drive, and I hope to eventually use  
linux  
for everything except the MS stuff that I have to use on occasion for my  
business.

Because of the variety of things I plan on doing, I want to get one that  
has  
a serial and a parallel port in addition to the USB that they pretty  
much  
all come with now. It would be nice to have at least one PCMCIA slot as  
well. I plan to do some wireless network assessment, so it needs to be  
wireless capable, but for my purposes being able to attach an external  
antennae for extra range isn't that important.

What I'm looking at right now is the Dell Latitude D600. I've supported  
and  
purchased a lot of Dell desktop computers and have been very happy with  
them  
and I have run Knoppix-STD on a Dell laptop and everything ran