

Is the PC era really over?

We've all been reading about that lately but is it true? We don't think so. If you are a casual home user perhaps you can use a smartphone (got skinny fingers?) or a tablet such as an iPad to surf the net and send emails but keep in mind that you may be paying for airtime with Verizon or AT&T and that can mount up quickly.

For the business user the PC will be around for the foreseeable future. Moving business applications to the cloud may reduce the need for a server in your office but not the PC. You still need a monitor, keyboard, and mouse for most if not all applications.

Talk of the post PC era actually began about 15 years ago with the sudden popularity of thin clients (remember them?) which was going to move everything to servers somewhat like the old mainframe. After that we saw the Microsoft windows CE tablets and now we have modern tablets.

The initial positive reception of the PC in the small business environment was due to it offering the same level of computing power of a large business but on a small budget. That has not changed. With the price of a standard computer less expensive than a lot of tablets it's a moot point. Software and internet connectivity charges are the ongoing expense.

Is storing your data in the cloud a good idea? Yes. Is remote backup good idea? Yes. But what do you want to work on? Something without any data storage like an Ipad or a traditional PC with a full size keyboard, mouse, screen and now the same touchscreen capability as a tablet?

As usual the truth is somewhere in the middle. Some users will like an Ipad or other tablet, others a PC, still others a phone but most likely you will use all three at different times. The key is connectivity. The bottom line: why change something that works? If what you have now doesn't work then fix it rather than scrap it and start all over.