For processing power I do notice I normally use this in some way or another. I do a lot of graphics work in webdesign and my old amd single core desktop normally has troubles. I was using my dads laptop while on the road this weekend and noticed it decreased laptop performance when just on battery power. If I go with vista couldn't I keep the high end specs? The university I'm attending does have power outlets to plug in a computer at desks.

I keep seeing ram onsale here for less then $100 / 2 gig stick. Installation would be a different subject but I imagine I could do that myself.

For HD space I wouldn't want to go under 80 gigs for sure and I wouldn't mind the speed of a 7k drive.

I'm not a big fan of the IBM laptops. I grew up with one of those and never did like the style or feel of them. Their base price seems to be pretty high to.

Running vista I don't think I'd want to go with less then 2 gigs of ram. The HP convertible laptop I found on sale there has a dual core 2.0 processor. I'm thinking that would be a fairly good balance. 4 gigs of ram would definately be nice and something I could do later on.

My dad talked to a computer "expert" in his business group the other day. He didn't recommend tablets at all saying they aren't worth it and all the people that buy them say they don't work. Anyone have any experience here? I'd love to have a tablet. But if its all for bragging rights then I might aswell go for a little more performance.