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Subject: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?

Posted by [Zion](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 01:55:36 GMT

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Well, i've had my MacBook Pro for about 6 months now, and it's really great.

However it's getting rather hot...

To those of you who have some experience with stuff like this,

Is it ideal to run processor and RAM eating programs like Max or games on this notebook like it is a Desktop PC?

I multitask, ALOT, usually have 30-40 processes running at any one time, and at least one of those uses more than 200mb of RAM.

For the most of the MacBook's usage, the fans have been running at 100% (60,000rpm), because i'm an avid gamer and since the main computer is used by the family, i use this all the time.

When i say it gets hot...

Putting a thermomiter around the outside of the case...

(Everything in C)

Left hand speaker = 35 degrees

'The F bar' (small metal plate between F keys and the monitor hinge) = 40 degrees

Palm rests = 20 degrees

Underside, below the keyboard = 60 degrees.

After a while of it being on my lap (i don't exactly have a desk to put it on), my body heat increases to nearly 40 degrees, I more or less have to have a deskfan blowing cool air into my face constantly to keep me cool, however it hurts my eyes drying them up.

My main concern is it's been running like this almost every day for 6 months. Is this healthy for my MacBook...?

It's already been back at Apple for a month replacing a faulty screen, i don't want to have to send it back again...

I'd hope it lasts a few years at least, but oh well...

Anyway, yeah... Your thoughts on this? Should i stop using it so much, or try not to use CPU hogging programs?

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?

Posted by [Ethenal](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 02:24:26 GMT

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Don't worry, MacBooks are made so that the heat is transferred to the case, saving the computer's components from burning up. They're usually intended NOT to be used in your lap, so I'd keep it on a desk if that's in anyway possible. It would probably be smart to keep it in a cooler area if its that hot, like a fan or an air-conditioned room.

EDIT: Someone please correct me if I'm wrong about any of this.

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**Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?**  
Posted by [Zion](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 02:41:06 GMT

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Desks aren't really an option right now, but I have a nice foam padded case/cover that insulates the heat from my legs.

And the deskside fan also cools the left side of the notebook, as well as me.

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**Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?**  
Posted by [Dover](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 02:45:13 GMT

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Zion Fox wrote on Fri, 11 January 2008 18:41Desks aren't really an option right now, but I have a nice foam padded case/cover that insulates the heat from my legs.

And the deskside fan also cools the left side of the notebook, as well as me.

The idea in not keeping in your lap is to let the fans do their job. They usually blow hot hair downward, and if they're pressed up against a non-flat surface, chances are there won't be anywhere for the hot air to escape, resulting in overheating.

Use a desk.

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**Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?**  
Posted by [R315r4z0r](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 03:11:07 GMT

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This may sound strange, but Laptops, although having the word "lap" in them, are not designed to actually be used on your lap.

They should be used on flat surfaces where there is a good airflow between computer and the ground.

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [Lone0001](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 04:34:32 GMT  
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I use a Laptop(along with a 2nd monitor) as my main computer they can handle quite a bit as long as you got a good processor and some ram.

EDIT: And yea pretty much what everyone else said don't use it in your lap even a little coffee table would work instead.

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [Zion](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 05:12:26 GMT  
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I think you don't understand...

This isn't an ordinary laptop. It's a 1" thin MacBook Pro. The bottom is solid titanium. The only exhaust vents in the whole thing is at the gap where the hinge is, where there are two fans, one at either end.

The vents are directed so the air travels up, infront of the monitor, not down into my lap...

It is on a flat surface, not touching my lap directly, but on a board section of the case covering it.

If you want, I can take photos of what I mean if you are finding it hard to understand...

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [Ethenal](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 06:28:52 GMT  
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Zion Fox wrote on Fri, 11 January 2008 23:12I think you don't understand...

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It is on a flat surface, not touching my lap directly, but on a board section of the case covering it.

If you want, I can take photos of what I mean if you are finding it hard to understand...

Whether or not it's on your lap, the MacBook is built to transfer heat away from the components to the case. Regardless of what you do, the bottom of the laptop will probably always be hot.

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 08:53:06 GMT  
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I'm pretty sure Apple, along with any manufacturer tests its notebooks extensively to see how much heat they can generate, and tolerate. There's a good chance they run theirs much hotter than what yours does.

Every so often, I see laptop coolers at Staples, Office Depot, etc., and they look like a pad with two or three fans built into them. I'm not sure if they work, but if you are worried, I'm sure you can find one which could take some heat off. However, that may add extra bulk or weight.

I'm also going to be a dick, and suggest you find a desk, or table. Check your back alley's, or Craigslist. There's always free furniture if you look.

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [light](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 11:02:38 GMT  
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There was some drama about this at the time. One guy complained to Apple about not being able to keep his 'laptop' on his lap.

Apple responded saying it's not a laptop, it's a notebook, we recommend using the notebook on a desk surface

He responded "your website has pictures of people using your notebook on their lap"

Apple responded by removing the pictures

I guess it all depends on whether you want kids?

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [WNxCABAL](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 12:03:48 GMT  
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Here's a solution:  
<http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=140197641680>

It remains on a flat surface and keeps it cool!

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [Zion](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 12:19:06 GMT  
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nikki6ixx wrote on Sat, 12 January 2008 08:53 I'm pretty sure Apple, along with any manufacturer tests its notebooks extensively to see how much heat they can generate, and tolerate. There's a good chance they run theirs much hotter than what yours does.

That's true, but do they really run their notebooks at 100% for 6 months constantly?

What i'm worried about is not the heat, it's the damage in the long run.

I forked out £1,500 for this, of my own money, and i'd like it to last for a few years.

I just need to know whether doing what i'm doing with it is going to be good, or bad, to it, in the long run...

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Also, to those telling me to get it on a flat surface...

It is. It's on a thin wooden board inside the case covering it.

This board rests on my lap, and the MacBook on this board.

Kay?

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [Aprime](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 12:35:28 GMT  
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Titanium? Make that Aluminum. They stopped making Titanium Macs quite some time ago.

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [sadukar09](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 12:45:26 GMT  
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Zion Fox wrote on Sat, 12 January 2008 06:19nikki6ixx wrote on Sat, 12 January 2008 08:53 I'm pretty sure Apple, along with any manufacturer tests its notebooks extensively to see how much heat they can generate, and tolerate. There's a good chance they run theirs much hotter than what yours does.

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-----  
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It is. It's on a thin wooden board inside the case covering it.

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Kay?

I don't think it will last very long, unless some miracle happens.

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [Ethenal](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 17:36:46 GMT  
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Aprime wrote on Sat, 12 January 2008 06:35 Titanium? Make that Aluminum. They stopped making Titanium Macs quite some time ago.

Yeah, my iMac is aluminum as well.

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [Zion](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 18:17:27 GMT  
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Aprime wrote on Sat, 12 January 2008 12:35 Titanium? Make that Aluminum. They stopped making Titanium Macs quite some time ago.

My bad.

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 19:14:25 GMT  
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Hah! Well today I crack open a flyer and guess what I see on sale.

<http://www.belkin.com/laptopathome/pockettop/>

Looks like there's plenty of people besides 'Mero' who want to use their 'laptop' on their lap.

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Subject: Re: Laptops/Notebooks as Desktops?  
Posted by [Zion](#) on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 20:06:44 GMT  
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That's kinda what i have, but less... 80's...

It's a cover that can alwas be used on my Mac.

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