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## I went shopping again...

**I**t was time for a new desktop computer. I had purchased my Dell desktop in 2002—six years is the longest I have ever owned *and used* a computer! But I began to experience some problems and limitations, so I decided to seek out the next new thing. I did my research well this time, and I'm quite pleased with the results, so far. As [D. Joshua Taylor](#) points out in this issue, it's important to know the features that you need in a computer, so you won't buy something you don't need.

I knew what I wanted, so I went to [Consumer Reports](#) online to read what the experts had to say about various systems. I happen to subscribe to the online service, which is the only way you can see the ratings by experts.

I wasn't stuck on getting another Dell, although I wasn't opposed to it either. I've had fairly good luck with Dells over the years. As it turns out, the system that works for me, and that was rated highly by *Consumer Reports*, is a Dell. The bonus was that the system recommended by CR was available through [Costco](#) online with a larger monitor and a few other upgrades, for less money than ordering from Dell. So, I ordered, and—surprise—I had the boxes delivered free about two days later. I wasn't even ready to start using the new computer!

But my fun had just begun. The system has *Windows Vista*, of course. I tried to use *Windows Easy Transfer*, which didn't turn out to be so easy. In fact, I tried several times over about a three-day period. It never finished. I finally resorted to moving things across my network and installing only the programs I needed right then. I did experience some installation issues, such as with my new version of Adobe Design Premium CS3, but after about six hours on the phone over two days, we were able to resolve the issues.

Now I have a very fast computer, with a great 24-inch monitor, and all of the programs installed that I need to keep my businesses going. I'm still trying to find some features I was used to in *Windows XP*, but I'm sure they'll turn up eventually (or not!). My new desktop (above left) now greets me each day with a larger-than-life image of my two dachshunds.

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