



Basic Requirements for Used Computers going to Africa

The laptops to be shipped overseas must comply with the following **minimum specifications**. These guidelines are a good baseline for donations to all organizations.

Laptops are better than desktops, which will not be accepted by Project Red Dot. Laptops are easier to ship than desktops, and don't need as much furniture to be used. They can be gathered up and locked up in a single, secure room at the end of the day. If they have batteries, they can continue to operate for a while even though the power fails (frequent).

The laptops should:

1. Run when turned on and have a working screen display, keyboard, touchpad, USB sockets. etc.
2. Have a matching (working) power cord and plug adapter
3. Have a voltage converter (usually built into the power cord) so that computers built in the US for 110 volt electrical current can run on Ghana's 220 volt system
4. Have a working operating system – likely, some variation of Linux.
5. Have a web browser installed (Firefox) as well as Open Office.
6. Have an absolute minimum 250 mg memory (512 would be better)
7. Have a working hard disk
8. Be PC type (not Macs---nothing wrong with Macs but they just don't have support for them there)
9. If the laptop has not already had the data erased, the IT partner will erase all prior data from files, folders, cookies, temporary files and internet histories erased, conforming to the DoD 5220.22-M data erasing specification
10. And most importantly, non-working laptops, scrap parts and other e-waste will be responsibly disposed of in the U.S. according to all required guidelines using legitimate and reputable methods.