Laptop

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Chemicals in usage and their origin

• PVC (the plastic used for the casing) is made from polymerization of vinyl chloride monomer.
  – The production of vinyl chloride monomer has the potential to have very detrimental effects on human, the most prominent of which is the possibility of getting cancer. They have reduced worker exposure to the monomer a great deal, but the risk still remains.

• Labtops could potentially use a lead-acid battery
  – Lead is mined/processed in a process that involves melting then blowing the ore with air to create a slag, then repeating the process. Australia is one of the major producers of lead.
Manufacturing

• Components can come from various places, but many labtops are manufactured in Taiwan.
  – Labtops shipped overseas on mass carriers.

• Dell Labtop:
  – Motherboard from Korea
  – Wireless card from America
  – Modems made in Taiwan
  – Memory chips made in Germany
Sales

- 145.9 million labtops sold in 2008
- 177.7 million sold in 2009
- Some components, such as the motherboard, CPU and graphics, are not upgradable.
  - Labtops have to be replaced as computer technologies advances
Disposal

• Many people dispose their lab top batteries in garbage, which can be hazardous for the environment.

• Labtops are required to be recycled in approved facilities.
  – Computer components are taken apart and reused for new computers.
Works Cited

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