

Now is the time for technophiles-on-a-budget to buy

The holiday period is peak season for gadget upgrades, and many lucky South Africans will have found the latest cellphone, tablet or laptop under their Christmas tree this year. This usually means that in January some of these people will be looking to offload their older gadgets, too.



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"In late December and early January, we receive a flood of gadgets from consumers who are eager to sell items for quick cash," says Richard Mukheibir, CEO of Cash Converters, one of the largest second-hand goods franchises in the world. "People want to keep up with rapidly advancing technology and buying and selling previously owned tech is a good way to fund this desire. On the flip side, consumers who are considering the purchase of second-hand electronics can expect to enjoy a wide selection and significant savings at this time of year."

If you plan to purchase, second-hand gadgets make sure the goods come from a reputable seller. If the gadget is supposed to have a serial number, make sure it has not been scratched off or removed. "Check the condition of the item and ensure it's not stolen or blocked," advises Mukheibir.

It's best to purchase electronic goods like cell phones, laptops and tablets in person so you can assess the product for damage, examine the screen and test the ports, keyboards, camera buttons, power button, etc. If it is a touch phone, test the screen to make sure it works. Cash Converters offers a six-month guarantee that ensures any faulty goods can be replaced repaired or refunded.

"Does the item come with its original packaging? If it does, check the cellphones IMEI (the unique code) and make sure that this code corresponds with the number on the box. Also, check for items such as the original warranty, the user manual, accessories and charger," concludes Mukheibir.

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