

## When you buy a new laptop ...

Once assembled, software is downloaded from the company's huge server banks.	The removable memory stick in your laptop was made in Israel.
The memory card in your laptop was made in South Korea or Germany or Japan.	The LCD display on your laptop was made in South Korea or Japan.
The carrying case for your laptop was made in an Irish-owned factory in China.	The hard disk drive in your laptop was made in an American-owned factory in Singapore or a Japanese-owned factory in Thailand.
The power adaptor for your laptop was made in Thailand.	The CD/DVD drive in your laptop was made in a Korean-owned factory in Indonesia or Malaysia.

Once all the components are received from the 'logistics centre', your laptop is put together in the assembly plant in Malaysia.	The power cord for your laptop was made in a British-owned factory in India.
Some of the components of your laptop were made in China, including the graphics card and the modem (made by a Taiwanese-owned factory).	Once loaded up with software at the assembly plant in Malaysia, the laptop is packaged and air-freighted to the computer company headquarters in Austin, Texas, USA.
The cooling fan in your laptop was made in Taiwan.	The keyboard in your laptop was made by a Japanese-owned factory in China.
Place your order online through a secure Internet connection to your credit card company based in Dublin, Ireland. An email is automatically sent to the company headquarters in Austin, Texas, USA.	The laptop assembly plant in Malaysia alerts the 'logistics centre' 50 km away. The 'logistics centre' is responsible for ordering and stocking the components for your laptop. Barcodes on each component are recorded and fed back to the company database in Texas. New stocks are then ordered.
On confirming you can pay by credit card, the computer company headquarters sends an email to the laptop assembly plant in Malaysia.	After your laptop reaches the computer company headquarters in Austin, Texas, USA, it is re-packaged with the accessories that you ordered. It is then sent by air-freight to your address.

<p>The microprocessor in your laptop was made in <i>Costa Rica</i> or <i>The Philippines</i>.</p>	<p>The wireless card in your laptop was made in an <i>American-owned</i> factory in <i>Taiwan</i> or <i>Malaysia</i>.</p>
<p>The motherboard in your laptop was made by a <i>Korean-owned</i> factory in <i>China</i>.</p>	<p>The battery in your laptop was made in a <i>Japanese-owned</i> factory in <i>Mexico</i> or <i>Malaysia</i>.</p>

Based on an extract of Thomas L. Friedman's book, "[The World is Flat](#)." (Allen Lane publishers 2005)