Is Your Laptop Ready for AI in 2027?

A five minute check to see if your laptop can keep up with how your team will work with AI.

My MacBook Air completely fried when I started using Manus AI, ChatGPT and Claude all together in parallel. It had an M1 chip from 2020. In April I moved to a MacBook Pro with an M5 chip and 24GB of memory.

If your laptop is slowing down, it's most likely because you currently have 10 browser tabs open, the Claude desktop app, Slack, Zoom, Granola, and Canva or Notion. That's when it starts to crash, especially when you're using ChatGPT and Claude on top.

Why this matters for 2027

We want people to build out their local files, not be dependent on the cloud, because then they're going to have to pay for that as well. Owning your setup means your laptop has to keep up.

If, in 2027, as a team, you're already thinking about AI implementation (and I'm assuming you're already thinking about it), then your laptops may need to be updated.

Before you start

Your laptop, five minutes and a Claude account.

RAM, GPU and chip, simply

RAM is your desk

Every app you open is another pile of paper on it. When the desk is full, your laptop starts moving paper into the drawer (your hard drive) and back again. That shuffling is the slowdown you feel.

GPU is the extra pair of hands

It handles visual work. It matters for video, design and running AI on your own laptop.

The chip is the brain

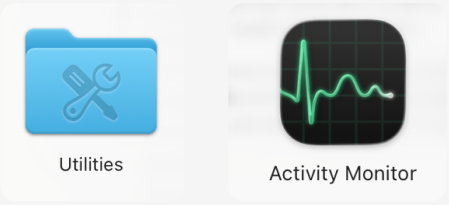
It does the thinking. For most teams, RAM runs out long before the chip does.

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STEP 01

Open Activity Monitor

Open Finder, go to Applications, then the Utilities folder, and open Activity Monitor. Faster: press Command and Space, type Activity Monitor and press Return.



STEP 02

Read your Memory tab

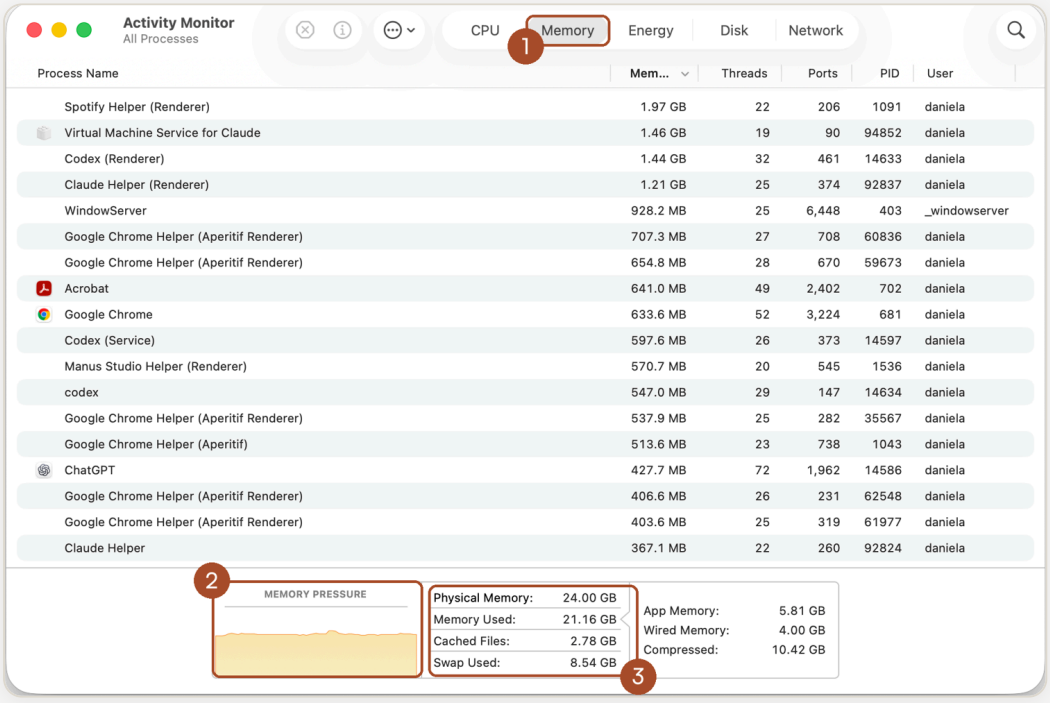
Click Memory **(1)**. Then look at the Memory Pressure graph **(2)**. Apple's own colour guide:

Green
Your Mac is using its RAM efficiently.

Yellow
It might eventually need more RAM.

Red
It needs more RAM.

Physical Memory **(3)** is how much RAM you have. Swap Used is how much has spilled onto your hard drive because RAM ran out.



This is my Activity Monitor. 24GB of memory and it's still yellow. 8.54GB has spilled onto the hard drive. That's Chrome, Claude, Codex, ChatGPT, Manus, Spotify and Acrobat open together.

To take a screenshot of the window, press Command, Shift and 4, then Space, then click the window.

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WINDOWS STEP 01

Open Task Manager

Press Ctrl, Shift and Esc together. Go to Performance, then click Memory. Note how much memory is in use out of the total. Click GPU to see that too.

WINDOWS STEP 02

Find your specs

Right-click Start, choose Settings, then System, then About. Under Device specifications, note your Installed RAM and Processor.

To take a screenshot of the Memory screen, press the Windows key, Shift and S, then drag over the window.

STEP 03, MAC AND WINDOWS

Ask your Claude

Attach your screenshot, paste this in, and answer Claude's questions.

COPY THIS PROMPT

I want to find out if my laptop is ready for how I'll use AI in 2027. I've attached a screenshot of my memory usage.

Before you give me any advice, ask me questions one at a time. Make sure you ask me questions about how I'm using AI and all of the different AI tools I plan to use. Also ask me:

- my laptop model, chip or processor, and how much memory it has
- which apps I usually have open at the same time
- whether I keep my work in local files on my laptop or in the cloud
- whether I plan to run AI on the laptop itself, or edit video and design
- when my laptop slows down, freezes or crashes

Then tell me in plain English:

1. Is my laptop ready, close, or due for an upgrade?
2. What is slowing it down right now?
3. The minimum memory and chip I should look for in my next laptop, and why.
4. What I can change today to get more out of the laptop I have.

No jargon. If you use a technical term, explain it in one line.



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Daniela Valencia, Founder of Reclaim Creative

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