



ORIGIN The true source of power

Celebrating the art of custom gaming PCs

words Mike Griffin



Sometimes there's too much talent under one roof, the cream rises to the top, and new ground must be broken. Such is case of Origin, a new power player in the elite gaming PC market, as 14 of its 15 founders arrive by way of long tenures at Alienware. Origin's expert PC builders are deeply invested in the components and quality control of every custom liquid-cooled desktop and dual GPU laptop they assemble, and this technical proficiency is matched by a love of gaming.

"All of us are huge gamers," Origin's CEO, Kevin Wasielewski, assures me. The fifteen year game industry veteran has been smitten since childhood, beginning with a Pitfall obsession on Atari 2600. Many years and games later, favorites like King's Quest, Zelda

and Metroid, Kevin's mother would bring home a shareware copy of Doom, forever binding him to the industry he was raised on. Chatting with Kevin in late November, following Origin PC's official launch, his enthusiasm is clearly intact: "What a great time to be a gamer! Last night I played Assassin's Creed 2, the night before Left 4 Dead 2, and the night before that CoD 6 [Modern Warfare 2]!"

It's hard to deny the collective experience and gaming passion that Kevin and his fellow Origin founders bring to the table, but the proof is in the proverbial pudding, and here that means superior gaming PC design and support. Let's say you're taking home Origin's flagship gaming and DJ laptop, the EON18. This stunning beast ships with a glorious 18.4-inch full HD widescreen, with images pumped out of twin GeForce GTX 280Ms, high-def 7.1 surround sound with optical output, optional dual-layer Blu-ray burner, wireless a/g/n networking, and a 7-in-1 memory stick reader. You can scale the EON's CPU configuration all the way up to a raging Core 2 Extreme Quad QX9300, slot-in up to 8-gigs of RAM, and equip up to three blazing fast 160 GB solid state hard drives. An optional integrated TV tuner allows one to harness this power as a hybrid DVR.

If you have good manufacturing partners and resources, as Origin has, ensuring that these parts are housed in top-grade materials is par for the course, emphasized by the EON's awesome full size keyboard: complete with comprehensive multimedia touch controls and eight built-in programmable gaming buttons. It's almost like the best of the Logitech and Razer gaming keyboards

morphed into sleek notebook form factor, and the backlit keys are purportedly ultra high-grade—built to withstand a gamer's beating. This code of quality follows through to the pre-ship testing process: unlike Origin's peers, who typically run 24 hour tests, this team adheres to a rigorous 72 hour benchmark burn-in to ensure components are ready for a long life of service.

As with Origin's elite Genesis desktop series, the EON18 laptop may be designed with 100% user customized paint job, lighting and cover logo, so no Origin PC will look alike. Laptop DJs could highlight their name in lights, and general hardware enthusiasts can achieve ultimate device personalization. Origin lets you select from leading cases for its powerful water-cooled desktops, or you can assemble a totally customized Genesis chassis flanked by industry-leading Killer Paint airbrush artwork.

We're spending a few weeks as caretakers of a spectacular customized Origin PC over the holidays, so be sure to check back next month for new views, select benchmarks, and based on what we've seen so far, much rejoicing. [play](#)



Hot rod: The Genesis desktop can be loaded with supreme components, like triple GeForce GTX 285s, up to 12 GB of memory, and six terabytes of hard drive storage.

