

Zillow.com

What is Zillow.com? Zillow is a real-estate website dedicated to giving its users tons of information about practically any property in the United States. Wait Just a Minute! Let me get a disclaimer in here first. I have no intention of diminishing the value of hiring a realtor to sell your home. In fact, I firmly believe you can only get top dollar for your home with the help of a realtor. I do believe, however, that whether you are a buyer or a seller, you should educate yourself and be aware of as many details as possible concerning buying a potential home, or selling your home. It is for this reason I find Zillow so fascinating

There are dozens of real estate sites on the Internet. Realtor.com is another great website that lists homes for sales by realtors all over the United States. Zillow.com does a great job filling in the information holes Realtor.com leaves. Currently Zillow covers 67 million homes across the United States. Some states have better Zillow coverage than others. Zillow currently boasts 80-100% coverage in the state of Tennessee.

Now that you know what Zillow is, let's get a better idea of what Zillow can do for you. Go to www.Zillow.com and type in the street address of your home, or your friend's home, or the mayor's home! Then check out the wealth of information that pops up. A map of your community comes up and in the middle of your screen a dialogue box displays the address you entered along with a short description of the property and its current Zestimate. Now this is where it begins to get interesting. A Zestimate is the dollar amount your home would sell for if you were to sell it today.

Zillow's Zestimate is a bit controversial; many realtors feel that this estimate is not accurate and may give would be home sellers unreasonable expectations when it comes to the value of their home. Zillow recalculates two terabytes of information nightly to come up with each home's Zestimate. Zillow uses data combed from public records to determine the square foot of a home, how many rooms it has and combines this information with the selling prices of recently sold homes in the area to determine the Zestimate of your home. What Zillow can not do is determine the added value of extra features such as a recently added hot tub area, or upgraded windows and siding. This is where your interaction can be useful.

Although you do not need to register to see your Zestimate, you do need to register in order to update the profile on your home. Zillow does put some safeguards in place to make sure the true owner of the property is the only one that is able to make updates. Once you are signed in, you can edit your home's profile. Any details you can add concerning your home's condition, such as view, or quality of building materials, will allow Zillow to make your Zestimate more accurate.

Zillow is always adding features to make the website better. Trying to sell your own house? Zillow allows users to list their home for free on the website. In addition, you could use the "Make me Move" feature. What is the top dollar you need to pack up and move? Just post that amount and wait for the offers. It's a fun way to see how desirable your home is.

The Computer Depot's Grand Opening is scheduled for 1pm on March 20th. Please stop by to help us celebrate the opening of our brand new state of the art facility. In the mean time if you have question about your computer feel free to call Thomas, Roger, or Aaron at 947-0749 and let us tell you about our FREE diagnostic service.