

How To Buy A Computer

1) MAC vs. PC

- A. **MAC** -Excellent for Multi-media [e.g. Video, Sound or Photo manipulation]
- B. **PC** - Leads in gaming, office productivity applications and general use.
 - i. Windows XP – suggested
 - ii. Windows Vista – new, poor performance, not popular

2) Laptop Vs Desktop

- A. **Laptop** – Small, portable computer. Also called a notebook.
 - i. Pros – Portable, battery operated
 - ii. Cons – More expensive, less reliable, compact keyboard
- B. **Desktop** – Larger, two-piece machine. Also called a “workstation”
 - i. Pros – Inexpensive, expandable
 - ii. Cons – Not portable, noise.

3) CPU (Processor)

- A. Two Main Manufacturers
 - i. Intel – Most popular
 - ii. AMD – Equal performance, often cheaper
- B. More Cores Are Better
- C. Faster CPU Is Better
- D. Faster Front Side Bus (FSB) Is Better
- E. More Cache is Better
- F. 32-bit vs. 64-bit
- G. Intel Celeron Bad!
- H. Examples:
 - i. Intel Pentium dual-core processor E2160 (1MB L2,1.80GHz,800 FSB)
 - ii. AMD Athlon 64 4000+ processor 2.60 GHz 512 KB L2 cache 2000 MHz FSB

7) Memory

- A. More is better
- B. Minimum 512kb

8) Monitor

- A. Size Does Matter
- B. Type
 - i. CRT
 - ii. LCD
- C. Beware! Flat PANEL vs. Flat SCREEN

9) Hard Drive

- A. Bigger is better

10) CD/DVD Drive

- A. Suggest a DVD+/- RW Drive
 - i. Reads and Writes CDs and DVDs

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11) Video Card

- A. Anything will do

12) Sound

- A. Anything will do

13) Networking

- A. Wired
 - i. Cable, DSL Internet
 - ii. Mostly Standard
- B. Wireless
 - i. Laptop
- C. Modem
 - i. Dial-up (obsolete)

14) Warrantee

- A. Price vs. coverage
- B. Manufacturer Coverage not store coverage

15) Misc.

- A. Ports
 - i. Lots of USB
- B. Will Current Equipment Fit?
 - i. Parallel (printer) port
 - ii. Serial port?
- C. Floppy Drive
 - i. If you use one

16) Maintaining Your New PC

- A. Heat is bad!
 - i. Keep it clean inside and out
- B. Anti-virus
 - i. Keep it up-to-date
- C. Security Patches
 - i. e.g. Windows Updates

17) Hint and Tips

- A. Buy Online not Retail Store
 - i. Dell, Gateway, HP
- B. Wait for specials
- C. Watch Add-ons
- D. Watch Software Bundles