

Buying a new computer

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- Brand - Everyone has their favorite brand. I like HP the best probably just because I see more of them, but any brand name is ok. They are far more alike than they are different.
- All In one - Some new desktop computers are called "All In One". This is not as good as a normal tower because everything is built into the monitor. That means when one part goes it all goes.
- Laptop - Only buy a laptop if you are sure you will be moving it around.
I like a normal desktop better because of the larger screen, mouse, and keyboard.
- Laptop hard drives - If buying a laptop make sure it has a real hard drive with 256 gb, 512 gb, or 1 tb. If the hard drive or "Storage" size is a smaller number like 16 gb, 32 gb, or 64 gb, then you can't install programs or save files easily. It's designed only for the internet.
- Desktop hard drives - Make sure there is ONLY ONE hard drive (C:) that is 256 gb or more in size, bigger the better. Some desktop computers come with two hard drives, one very small (like 128 gb), and one big (like 1 tb). The problem is Windows and your programs will be installed on the very small hard drive and you could run out of room. You can move things to the 2nd hard drive, but that's hard to do for most people.
- Hard drive types - If you have a choice an "SSD" or "Solid State Drive" will be much faster.
- Memory - The amount should be at least 4 gb, but buy more for more speed, like 6, 8, 10, or 12 gb.
- Processor - If the processor speed is listed try to get 2 ghz or higher for more speed, example: 3.6 ghz
If you see references like this they are good too, higher the better: i3, i5, i7, i9
Examples of processors: AMD 3.10 GHz, Intel Core i5-6400T
- DVD drive - Most new laptops do not come with a DVD drive, watch for that if you need one, or you can buy an external one that connects to a USB port.
- Monitor - With a desktop computer you can usually use your old monitor. But some new computers do not have the old style SVGA connection, look for that, otherwise you can buy an HDMI adapter.
- Speakers - Speakers will not come with a new desktop computer, but you can use your old ones.
- Printer - Usually you can use your old printer as long as it's not more than 5 years old.
- Microsoft Office - If you buy Microsoft Office be sure to buy a version labeled with a year like "Office Home & Student 2019 for PC". Do not buy "Office 365" otherwise you pay for that forever. There is a free alternative called Libre Office which can be downloaded from my webpage.
- Setup time - setting up a new computer typically takes 3 to 6 hours depending mostly on whether we are getting files and programs from an old computer.