

# Things to look for when purchasing a new Computer

## Brands

- Recommend Dell, Toshiba or HP

## Type (Laptop or Desktop)

- Do I need to have the portability of a laptop or will I ever use it away from home?
- Note that Laptops have few more recommended maintenance items.

## Processors (Desktop and Laptops)

- Recommended
  - Intel Core 2 Duo/Quad, (2.0-3.4GHz)
  - Intel Pentium Dual Core (2.0-3.4GHz)
  - Laptops Only – Intel Centrino (Core 2 Duo with Intel Wireless) or Intel Atom (mainly in Mini Laptops)
- Not Recommended (due to performance)
  - AMD Brand
  - Intel Celeron or Celeron Dual-Core/Duo

## Memory

- 2-4GB with a 32-bit Operating System is Recommended
- 4+GB - Not recommended because of possible compatibility issues when using a 64-bit Operating System
- Upgrading memory on a current system
  - Most common is DDR2, DDR3 (Double Data Rate)
  - Recommend Lifetime Warranty

- Recommended Manufactures – Kingston, Patriot, Crucial, Corsair
- Beware of Motherboard Compatibility and Maximums, Mix Chip timing problems and Dual Channel vs. Single Channel configurations

## Operating System

- Windows XP
  - Listed as Windows Vista Bonus or Vista Downgrade
  - Custom ordered PC only
- Windows Vista
  - Available Versions - Home Basic, Home Premium, Business, Ultimate (32 and 64-bit)
  - Don't recommend Home Basic
- Windows 7 – Released Oct 22, 2009 [www.microsoft.com/windows7](http://www.microsoft.com/windows7)
  - Available Versions - Home Premium, Professional, Ultimate (32 and 64-bit)
  - Windows XP Mode available in Professional and Ultimate versions
  - Recommend 32-bit to decrease compatibility problems

## Hard Drive – user preference

- Most common – 160-500GB
- Largest available – 1-2TB (best for heavy music and video users)

## Optical Drive – user preference

- Most common – DVD/CD Burners
  - CDRW/DVD Combo drives Burn CDs and only read DVDs
  - Recommend DVD+/-RW
  - Increased capacity - DL (Dual Layer)
- Blue Ray Burners
  - More costly newest technology

## Productivity Software

- Recommend Microsoft Office [www.microsoft.com/office](http://www.microsoft.com/office)

- Most common - Office 2007 Home and Student \$140
- Office 2007 Small Business \$239
- Other software available
  - Microsoft Works
  - Microsoft Works Suite (includes MS Word)
  - Open Office by Sun Microsystems [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org) (free MS Office Compatible Suite)

#### Recommended Purchase price range

- \$800-1200 - Most common range for good performance PCs with at minimum a 3-5 year life span.