

NEED HELP PICKING A COMPUTER?

Here are some tips that might help you decide. *SORRY APPLE/MAC Lovers, nothing to help you here.*

❖ **LAPTOP OR DESKTOP?**

➤ **LAPTOP**

- Portable (can go “almost” anywhere)
- Easy to handle, with everything attached.
- Same configuration as Desktop, it will usually cost more.
- More susceptible to damage/loss

➤ **DESKTOP**

- With the same configuration as the Laptop it will work faster.
- Requires external keyboard, mouse (included in price).
- Requires external monitor (sometimes at an extra cost)
- Less susceptible to damage/loss.
- Requires a designated location for install.
- Usually lower cost option.

❖ **SOFTWARE**

➤ **OPERATING SYSTEM:** This is the engine that runs the computer and helps the user optimize their personal software. **THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE MOST OF THE SOFTWARE YOU WILL USE.**

- ALL these systems will include some base software to get you connected to the internet and any other components you have.
- If given choice, choose 64bit over 32bit.
- **WINDOWS 7**
 - Most popular business software today.
 - Still available with some purchases (but might cost extra)
- **WINDOWS 8**
 - Not the easiest operating system to use if you have worked before in Windows 7 or Windows XP.
 - Operation is the same as the operating system on a Windows Smart phone.
- **WINDOWS 10**
 - Default operating system for new computer purchases.
 - Mixes the menu operations of Windows 7 with the new visual options from Windows 8.
 - This is where everyone is headed, so might as well join the crowd.

- **PERSONAL SOFTWARE:** This is the software you will use that is not included in the base pricing of a computer.
 - **Microsoft Office:** Will provide a program for typing documents, working in spreadsheets, and a program that interacts other applications with your email.
 - Different packages come with different software options, so read what is included before your purchase.
 - **Virus Protection:** Important for the protection from viruses that can do harm to your computer, such as hiding data and messing up logins. These packages.
 - MIGHT NOT STOP COMPUTER HACKING. Hacking is minimize by how you use your computer.
 - **Other Software Packages:** Many, many packages are for sale to help do almost anything you can think of on a computer.
 - If you want/need a software, make sure you look at what is required of your computer configuration to make sure it will work once you install the software.
- ❖ **INTERNAL HARDWARE:** These are all the internal parts of your computer. Think of it as if you were ordering a new car. Some stuff comes “standard” and will “work”, but for more \$ \$ you can get “better” stuff.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- **Processor:**
 - Most are “Intel”
 - Pentium is better than Celeron (but buy Celeron for home/personal use)
 - Higher generation and higher numbers are better (obvious, right?)
- **Memory:**
 - Concentrate on terms “4GB, 8GB, 16GB”, ignore rest of the verbiage.
 - ◆ 4GB is MINIMUM, if you want to help increase the speed of working in the computer, increase to 8GB.
- **Hard Drive (HDD):** “1TB” is about normal today and is more than enough. Anything over “500MB” will work for most users.
- **“DEFAULT” select the rest** unless you are getting a really special monitor.

Bob Waterstradt (bobwaterstradt@att.net)