

BUYING A NEW COMPUTER

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May 15, 2014

WINDOWS 7 OR WINDOWS 8.1?

- A few Windows 7 Machines for Sale but no savings
- Windows 8.1 has another update coming
 - More friendly to non-touch screen users
 - Start (or Metro) screen not pushed at you
- Programs that run in Windows 7 will run in Windows 8.1
- Windows 8.1 is faster and has some good new features
- Little or no incentive to buy Windows 7.

RETHINK WHAT TYPE OF COMPUTER YOU WANT

Primary Choices are:

Desktop

- Most power and features for your money
- Can be upgraded or modified for future needs
- Best for inputting data, editing photos, etc.
- Can use any size monitor you wish. (24" is common)

All in One

- Essentially a sealed desktop
- Integrated into monitor and takes minimal room
- Not intended to be upgraded or changed

RETHINK WHAT TYPE OF COMPUTER YOU WANT

Primary Choices are:

Laptop

- Not as powerful or fast as desktop for the money
- Portable and can be moved around house or used for travel
- Keyboard is flat and not as easy to type on as desktop

Tablet

- Extremely portable.
- Best for reading emails, surfing the web, etc.
- Difficult to type on “soft keyboard,” not good for input.

RETHINK WHAT TYPE OF COMPUTER YOU WANT

Primary Choices are:

Smartphone:

- Most portable of all computing devices
- Small screen and hard to read sometimes
- Always with you whenever you need a computer
- Difficult to type messages or edit data on “soft keyboard”

IF YOU WANT A DESKTOP

Power and price depend on your usage.

Casual User:

- Read and respond to Email
- Type occasional letter
- Store digital pictures but little or no editing

Power User:

- All of the above plus,
- Edits photos
- Uses Powerpoint or Publisher to create presentations
- Uses Quicken and other programs for retaining data
- Uses a variety of other programs for Genealogy, etc.

SUGGESTED DESKTOPS OR ALL-IN-ONES

- **Rule 1:** Do Not Buy the Cheapest Computer You Can Find
- **Rule 2:** Get a decent sized monitor. At least 21”, prefer 24”. Price is less than \$150. (Touch screens uncommon on Desktop Computers)
- **Rule 3:** For Desktops, look at the size of the tower. Does it fit your space?
- **Rule 4:** The CPU is the most important part. Check out <http://www.cpubenchmark.net/> for CPU speed comparisons.
- **Rule 5:** Get an Intel i3, i5 or i7. Don't get a Celeron or Pentium Processor. AMD makes some equivalent processors.
- **Rule 6:** Get USB 3.0 ports on rear of computer. Nice to have them on front also.

BUYING A DESKTOP

- Our April Speaker, Evan Corstorphine, recommended Dell and Lenovo. Didn't like HP but it is the most common brand.
- Costco offers Dell and HP
- Bestbuy has multiple brands
- Can order from Newegg if you are comfortable with Mail Order
- Fry's is a good place to look but spotty customer service
- Office supply stores have spotty customer service and rarely the best prices.
- Computer stores like R-Computer have excellent service and will configure any computer you like. Prices are higher than "off the shelf."

DESKTOP COMPUTER FROM BESTBUY CASUAL USER



Lenovo H530

Windows 8.1

Intel i3 CPU 3.4 GHz

6 GB Ram Memory

1 TB Hard Drive

Built in Wireless Card

Standard Price is \$479. May find it for less on sale.

DESKTOP COMPUTER FROM BESTBUY POWER USER



Dell XPS

Windows 8.1

Intel i7 CPU 3.1 GHz

8 GB RAM Memory

1 TB Hard Drive

Built in Wireless Card

**Standard Price \$768. May find
it for less on sale.**

IF SPACE IS LIMITED CONSIDER A “SMALL FORMFACTOR” TOWER



Lenovo IdeaCentre H530s Desktop

- Case is 4 x 12 Inches
- DVD drive is mounted vertically
- Intel Core i5-4440 3.3 GHz Processor
- 6 GB DDR3 RAM
- 1 TB 7200 rpm Hard Drive
- Windows 8.1
- Amazon Price \$559

ALL-IN-ONE COMPUTERS

- Very compact on your desk.
- Full featured Windows 8.1 operating system
- Little or no hardware upgrading possible
- Touch Screen is similar to Tablet. Touch to open programs, increase font, etc.
- Keyboard and mouse are same as desktop tower computer
- More expensive than a desktop with same power.

ALL-IN-ONE COMPUTERS NORMALLY HAVE TOUCH SCREEN

Very compact with full size keyboard. Computer built into monitor.



- Example from Best Buy
- Lenovo – C560
- 23” touch-screen monitor
- Intel i3 CPU 2.9 GHz
- 8GB RAM Memory
- 1TB Hard Drive
- **Price \$720**

LAPTOP COMPUTERS ARE POPULAR REPLACEMENTS FOR DESKTOP COMPUTERS

Advantages:

- Portability. Can use around house or travelling
- Full Windows 8.1 same as Desktop
- Some have Touch Screen

Disadvanges:

- Screen size is smaller
- Must have WiFi to be portable in house
- Keyboard is flat and is harder to type on
- More expensive than desktop for equal processing power

LEAST EXPENSIVE LAPTOP IS A CHROMEBOOK

- Chromebook is a Google product. Branded by Samsung, HP, etc.
- Has Google Android Operating System. Does not have Windows.
- Sized for travel. Screen is 11.6” up to 14”
- Small SSD hard drive to make it extremely fast
- Many Apps can be downloaded for offline usage
- Can use Google Docs offline for word processing, excel, etc.
- Will not run large Windows programs, e.g. Photoshop Elements, Outlook, Publisher, Family TreeMaker, etc.
- Priced around \$300.

MANY LAPTOPS AVAILABLE ON MARKET

Laptop Considerations:

- If it will stay in house, buy a large screen, i.e. 15.6” or 17”
- For travel, buy 15.6” screen or less (14” or less is better)
- Need good WiFi in house to make laptop work well (May need a range extender)
- Keyboards are inferior to a regular desktop keyboard because they are flat.
- Buy an external mouse because the built in mousepad is difficult to use.
- More expensive than desktop computers for same power.

SAMPLE LAPTOP FOR HOME USAGE

17.3" DISPLAY

6GB MEMORY

750GB HARD DRIVE



Costco Online:

- Dell Inspiron 17 Laptop with Intel i5 processor – 1.6 Ghz
- Non – Touch Screen
- Windows 8.1
- Price about \$600.



Comments: The 17" screen makes it good around the house. Processor is a little slow at 1.6 Ghz. Too big for much travel.

SAMPLE LAPTOP WITH TOUCH SCREEN

15.6" TOUCHSCREEN

6GB MEMORY

1.0TB HARD DRIVE



Costco Online:

- Lenovo G510s with Intel i5 Processor, 2.5 Ghz
- Touch Screen
- Windows 8.1
- Price about \$600



Comments: Touchscreen adds to the price. Good general purpose laptop for the house or some travel.

WINDOWS LAPTOP FOR TRAVEL

14" TOUCHSCREEN
4GB MEMORY
500GB HARD DRIVE



Costco Online:

- Lenovo S415 with AMD e2100 processor - 1.0 Ghz
- Touch Screen
- Windows 8.1
- Price \$329

Comments: Not very fast but gets the job done. 14" screen makes it good for travel.

DECIDE WHAT COMPUTER DEVICE IS BEST FOR YOU

- No Rush, Windows XP will work for awhile
- Costco has some good discounts
- BestBuy always has sales
- Consider Amazon or Newegg if comfortable with online purchases
- Computer store like R-Computer is an excellent resource