

How to Buy a PC

Figure out how much money you have to spend.

Look in the Sunday paper and pick out PCs in your price range.

Consider basic features that you “must have” vs. “nice to have”

Basic Features

Processor chip type and speed (you want the latest and the greatest)

RAM Memory Chip Size (you want the largest)

Disk Drive Size (you want the largest, e.g. over 100 Gig)

Screen type, resolution and size (larger screens cost more)

Wireless Wi-Fi Card

Other Features

Memory Chip Upgrade (at least 1 Gig for Windows Vista)

Flat Screen Monitor

All-in-one Printer (sometimes this a free add on because printing companies make money of ink)

Fingerprint scan

Built in camera

Media PC slots

Wireless Wi-Fi routers

Special Considerations

Allow enough money in your budget to cover equipment maintenance contract and support.

Expect to buy Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Look for deals. Rebates may bring the price down by several hundred dollars

Shop around: Circuit City, Best Buy, on-line at Amazon.com, CDW, etc.

Security software is hard to use and cumbersome to manage and needs to be used only as necessary.

Everyone needs help to set-up his or her installation. Some maintenance contracts cover this for free.

BACK-UP YOUR HARD DRIVE ON A REGULAR BASIS! There are inexpensive online services that take care of this.