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Guide to Buying a New Computer

- Don't buy cheap. You get what you pay for.
- The repair shop techs will gladly answer your questions, help you order and setup a new computer
- Consider buying from manufacturer's website for customization, options and current new products
- Manufacturers: Apple, Dell, HP, Lenovo, Acer, Asus, and many others
- Choose device: Laptop, Desktop, All-in-1 Desktop, Tablet (eg. iPad), Chromebook (for email & web)
- Harddrive: recommend SSD (solid state is faster than a HDD) 256 GB minimum, 500 GB is better
- RAM (short-term memory): 8 GB minimum, more than 8 GB is better and faster
- CPU Processor: Intel i5 or i7 with 10th generation or above, AMD Ryzen 5 or 7 (avoid i3 and AMD 3)
- Monitor display screen: diagonal size varies, pick full HD (1080p) resolution (avoid 720p and 4K)
- Monitor screen choices: touch or non-touch, anti-glare or glossy BrightView
- CD/DVD Drive: internal (part of computer) or external USB plug-in bought separately
- Speakers, Camera and Microphone: recommend built into the computer or can buy separately
- Keyboard and Mouse: recommend wireless but are available wired
- Numeric Keypad: choices are built-in on the keyboard or external USB plug-in bought separately
- WiFi and Bluetooth built into the computer
- Connection Ports (pick what you need): USB, Ethernet, HDMI, SD cardreader, earphones, and others
- Operating System type: 64-bit OS, x64-based processor (32 bit is an old system)
- Operating System: Windows 11 Home \$140 or Pro \$200 for business or \$100 to upgrade to Pro
- Other Operating Systems: Apple iOS for iPad, Mac OS X for Apple Macintosh computers
- Microsoft 365: subscription, \$70 Personal (1 person), \$100 Family (1-6 people), \$20 Basic (1 person)
- Microsoft Office Home & Student 2021: \$150 one-time purchase for 1 PC
- Microsoft Office Online: free, web-based, not full-featured, no access offline (must use internet)
- Other free office software for Windows: LibreOffice, Google Docs/Sheets/Slides, and others
- Apple's Office Software: iWork comes installed on all MAC PC's for free
- Add-ons if needed: carrying case, speakers, monitor, HDMI cable, flashdrives, external harddrive
- File and System Backup: recommend the cloud off-site storage for maximum personal file protection
- Manufacturer support and extended warranty: not recommended - the Computer Club is your warranty