

Computer Tips

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Buying a New Computer

Buying a new computer is both exciting and daunting. Which one should I buy? What do all those terms mean? How expensive will it be? How long is the warranty? Where should I buy it?

All these questions are natural, and must be considered before you buy. In this article, we offer five points to consider before buying your new PC.

1) USES. How you plan to use the computer will decide how much money you will need to spend to meet your requirements. If you will be using the computer to access emails and Internet, and type the odd letter, then a budget system will be sufficient. With a budget system you won't however have much room to expand. These systems often use cheaper parts to keep the price down. Spend about \$200 more, and you will get yourself a good computer, capable of playing games, and running programs such as Photoshop. These higher end computers will outlive a budget system, due to higher quality parts being used in them.

2) UPGRADABILITY. Will your new PC allow you to add another hard drive, or a video card or a TV tuner card. Will it handle more demanding software with ease, or will it need to be upgraded to make it faster. If you are a beginner, when choosing a computer, choose something that has the ability to grow with you. As you learn more things, you will require more things of your computer.

3) WARRANTY. As with any electrical item, the warranty is designed to give you peace of mind. The length of the warranty indicates to the buyer the confidence the manufacturer has in their product. Most brand name computers, such as Dell, HP, Toshiba, Acer, etc, usually offer only 12 months warranty, whereas a custom-built PC gives the component manufacturer warranty, usually 2 or 3 years, depending on the component.

4) BRAND NAME or CUSTOM BUILT. Brand name computers are the easiest to purchase, as they are an off-the-shelf item. But this is where the ease begins and finishes, as brand-name computers cannot be easily upgraded—what you see is what you get. On the other hand, custom built computers—those assembled by computer retailers, give you the freedom to include features you want. The parts used in custom built PCs are industry standard, and often superior quality, making repairs and upgrades quicker and cheaper.

5) SOFTWARE. With a brand-name computer, the only software you get is a recovery disk. This presents a problem should something go wrong with your computer. Recovery disks only offer the customer the option of restoring the computer to factory settings, losing all personal data. With custom built PCs, you get a full copy of the operating system, allowing you to do a repair on your computer, should anything go wrong. This method of repair saves all personal data and files. You will also get any other relevant software, such as motherboard drivers. This makes repairing or upgrading your PC much simpler. Over the life of your computer, this will save you time and money.



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