

Cry for Help

Computer Tips & Tricks for the novice to the advanced.

New Computers

Be very, very careful when buying a new computer. All too often I see a “cheap” computer not qualified to handle the job it is required for.

In terms of the processor, there is a big variation in types, but nearly all are much better than recent years. Spec's to look out for are; processor speed (GHz), dual core and quad core, Intel and AMD are both good.

Next is Memory (or RAM), not to be confused with storage space, because both are measured in GigaBytes (Gb).

For storage, 80Gb is about the smallest these days and if you plan on storing a lot of movies or photos then there are lots of options up to 400Gb in a single disk drive.

However, these days, memory is probably the single most important determinant of performance. A computer running windows XP needs 1Gb of RAM to run well, and with 2Gb it will fly. Unfortunately I get called to computers with as little as 256kb and it is a sad machine to work on, very slow.

If you choose windows Vista, then this needs even more memory. I recommend 2Gb as a minimum. It will run with as little as 512kb, but this is again a very slow machine to use. Lastly, make sure it comes with good support. Life's too short NOT to have someone to call on when it all goes to custard.

- Good Luck.

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