Getting a New Computer

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When

- 3–5 years
- When the computer no longer does what you want it to
- When updated programs or apps require a better computer
- When the operating system becomes a security risk
- When useful new features are available
- When it needs physical repair

Basic Choices

What do you want to do?

Desktop, Laptop, Chrome book, Tablet (PC→PC, Apple→Apple)

Desktop – best price/performance ratio, most options, easiest to repair, separate monitor and keyboard; but takes more space and typically has more wires.

Laptop – full computer capabilities and is portable; but keyboard, touchpad, screen size, no DVD drive, and limited ports are often an issue. Can be used with an external keyboard and mouse.

Tablet – often a good choice for basic email and Internet usage.

Chromebook – can be a good choice for basic email and Internet usage.

My philosophy – spend more money, get more than you need so you can spend time doing things rather than struggling with a slow computer.

My Recommendations

- Intel i5 processor (CPU) or for advanced tasks an Intel i7
- 12 GB RAM (minimum)
- Brand: Dell or HP
- Will probably come with Windows 11
- Costco
- HP website, Dell website, Staples store or website
- Or a refurbished computer from the Club

Some Considerations

- Solid State Drives (SSDs) are nice
- Check compatibility with existing printer, monitor, and programs (reinstall)
- Optical (DVD) drive? May need an external device
- HDMI port?
- Backlit keyboard, Numeric keypad
- Number of USB ports?
- May need to add a USB hub; powered?

Information you should have available

Passwords, program product codes, browser bookmarks, contacts

Expectations

Not plug and play. Some effort is required on your part.

Programs cannot be transferred. They must be reinstalled.

Setting up a new computer

Requires a fair amount of effort, minimum of 5 hours.

Overview of tasks

1. Answer startup questions	6. Install desired programs
2. Connect to Internet and peripherals	7. Transfer data – documents, pictures, videos, music
3. Update Operating System	8. Setup browser – home page, search engine, email, favorites
4. Remove undesired programs	9. Be sure backups are enabled
5. Install recommended programs	10. Clear data from old computer

For a more complete listing request my 26-step checklist.

Recommendations for additional software

CCleaner, free
Malwarebytes, free or premium
Defraggler

Monitors

Find one you like

Summary

Determine what you want to use the computer for.

Ask friends what they're using.

When you home in on a particular unit ask several people who are using them or who are knowledgably about computers.

Be prepared to learn.