

Holiday Shopping Guide

Two Important Questions:

1. What is your budget?
2. What do you want to do with it?

Desktops and Laptops

- look at the processor for better performance go for INTEL i3 or i5
- Stay away from *Celeron* processor, too slow!
- Make sure it has at least 3 or 4 USB ports and Card reader if needed.
- Microsoft Office Program is EXTRA. Approx.. \$149 for Student/Home Edition
- Some desktops are *Slimline* meaning it is narrow and CD tray is sideways

Wireless Keyboard and Mouse

- Go for Logitech or Microsoft brands.

All in One Computer:

- If you need a space saver. The monitor and CPU are combined.
- If you want a very large screen – most are touch enabled.

Printers:

- Ink Cartridge or Laser? Some laser printers have really come down in price
- Print Photos— if it specifies it prints photos will likely have better quality
- Multifunction – print, copy and scan
- Check for PPM (pages per min). At least 8ppm is good – fast print
- Wireless: AirPrint for compatibility with Apple phones & Google Cloud Print for Android. If you also need to print from your tablet or smartphones
- Good brands: Canon, HP, Epson -- the HP Envy gets good reviews
- Check price of cartridges BEFORE you purchase it –they are expensive

Routers:

- Shelf life ~ 5 years. If it keeps having to be rebooted time to replace it!
- NETGEAR is preferable brand. Buy at least an N600 or higher for good range.
- Type of router depends on how many devices will be accessing it?

E-Readers:

Main purpose is reading. Book lovers focusing on reading don't care about other features.

- Kindle, Nook, Kobo.

Tablets:

More versatile, read books, use Internet, play games, social media access, etc.

- iPad, Samsung Galaxy, Fire. I find the iPad the most user friendly although it's a little more expensive.

Smartphones:

- So much more than a phone, includes internet access, email capability, games, Camera, music, reading books etc. Can be cost prohibitive. Contracts.
- Other option: Pay as you go ie: Tracfone
- A popular company: *Consumer Cellular* offers good monthly price for basic usage of phone. Those that use it mainly for emergencies or a little texting.
- My own personal opinion: I find the iPhones a lot more user friendly especially for new users.

Flash drive Keys (Thumb drives, USB drives):

- Back up data, small storage device, portable, inexpensive
- Brands: Lexar, PNY, SanDisk-Cruzer
- Look for at least 8, 16 or 32 gig of space- photo storage takes up more room
- Price point: around \$20

External Drives:

- Brands: Seagate, Maxtor, Western Digital
- 500gig or 1TB storage is typical storage capacity

If you need help SETTING UP any of these gadgets...call or email me!