

Endeavour Seniors Computer Club Inc.

New Computer Purchasing Recommendations

The Endeavour Seniors Computer Club has been asked to provide a recommendation sheet for members who are considering purchasing a new computer.

To assist with the type of computer to be purchased there are three questions that need to be answered to provide a path which will allow you to focus on selecting the computer which best meet your needs. These questions are:-

- Q 1) *How experienced are you with computers?* Will this be my first computer or have I had a computer for many years and consider myself as a basic or intermediate level user
- Q 2) *What do I want to do with my new computer* – Emailing, Internet usage, Word processing, Photography, Music or Multimedia
- Q 3) *Computer type* – Desktop or Laptop

The chart below will assist in the selection process by using the answers to the above questions.

First Time User Computer System	Basic User Computer System	Intermediate User Computer System with enhanced options
Emailing & Internet usage plus basic Word processing using Wordpad	Emailing & Internet usage plus Word processing with MS Office type program	Emailing & Internet usage plus advanced Word processing & Spreadsheets
Basic Photography & Music storage needs	Photography & Music enhancing	Advanced Photography & Music enhancing
		Multimedia & Video

Desktop Systems - These systems should include the following features:

Desktop First Time User Computer about \$750	Desktop Basic User Computer about \$850	Desktop Intermediate User Computer with enhanced options about \$1,100
Windows 10 Fitted with Intel Celeron CPU 4GB Memory 500GB Hard Disk Drive DVD Writer LCD Monitor – Sized to suit Integrated Graphics, Sound & Network	Windows 10 Fitted with Intel i3 CPU 4GB Memory 500GB Hard Disk Drive DVD Writer/Blu-Ray reader LCD Monitor – Sized to suit Integrated Graphics, Sound & Network	Windows 10 Fitted with i5 CPU 8GB Memory 1TB Hard Disk Drive DVD Writer/Blu-Ray reader LCD Monitor – Sized to suit PCIE Graphics card Integrated Sound & Network

Laptop Systems - These system should include the following features:

Laptop First Time User Computer about \$500	Laptop Basic User Computer about \$700	Laptop Intermediate User Computer with enhanced options about \$900
Windows 10 Fitted with Intel Celeron CPU 4GB Memory 500GB HDD & DVD Writer 14” to 15.6” HD LCD Display Integrated Graphics, Sound, Wi-Fi, LAN, Web Cam & HDMI	Windows 10 Fitted with Intel i3 CPU 4GB Memory 750GB HDD & DVD Writer 15.6” HD LCD LED Display Integrated Graphics, Sound, Wi-Fi, LAN, Web Cam, HDMI & Card Reader	Windows 10 Fitted with Intel i5 CPU 8GB Memory 1TB HDD & DVD Writer 15.6” HD LCD LED Display 2GB Dedicated Graphics, Sound, Wi-Fi, LAN, WebCam, HDMI, Bluetooth & Card Reader

Space available in your home for using the computer is important and based upon this will usually drive the decision to purchase either a Desktop or Laptop computer. Laptops are great because they require less space and fewer electrical cords plus the flexibility to take your computer with you on holidays.

Another option to purchasing either a Desktop/Laptop computer is the “All-in-One” Desktop computer. These computer systems take the components normally installed in a Desktop Tower unit and mount them all into the back of an enlarged monitor. This design eliminates all cords except for the power cord as the Keyboard/Mouse are operated wirelessly. The monitors range in size from 20” to 27” but prices start from around \$800 up to \$2,000. This is a good option if you want a large screen, but not the clutter of a desktop.

If purchasing a Desktop computer, ‘No-Name’ units assembled by local computer shops are a good way to go as spare parts are readily available. If purchasing a Laptop computer stay with the better known computer manufacturers, although they may be marginally more expensive. You need to be confident that spare parts for your Laptop will be available from the manufacturer when needed.

Purchase your computer from a store that you are confident will supply **GOOD** after sales service and support for any help you **will** need. If buying a Desktop computer remember that they are awkward to carry and easy direct access to the computer shop is important when returning these units for service.

Be aware that a large number of laptop computer manufacturers supply their laptops with a bundle of trial software. After approximately 90 days you will be continuously reminded that you should purchase this software. There are a number of good freeware software packages available for download on the Internet as alternatives to purchasing this software at considerable expense.

- Basic Anti-Virus → Microsoft Security Essentials (Win 7) or Windows Defender (Win 10).
- Email Program → Windows Live Mail, Outlook.com, Thunderbird, Gmail or Yahoo mail.
- Word Processing → Wordpad available from within Windows or the ‘Open Office’ program.
- Photography → Picasa 3 and Microsoft also offer a number of freeware programs for Photography and DVD production.

It is most important that you install on your computer a good **Internet Security** product if you intend to use your computer for on-line banking, shopping or browsing the internet. It is important to keep your computer safe from any type of attack and there are many well regarded brands of Internet Security software available for purchase for about \$35 for a year’s subscription. These products will offer a wider range of important security features than the basic Anti-Virus freeware products referenced above.