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April 5, 2010
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What PC To Buy:

It has been about six months since Windows 7 arrived for the PC. Not many people wanted to be first to trust the new operating system after the Vista fiasco. I am officially reporting that W7 is just fine. It initially looks different (sexy) and the system is organized in a more modern fashion. Don't let this scare you. The programs and operations are still the same. You will enjoy the new features unless you are one of those who despise change. That is what life is all about; embrace it.

When picking out a new computer take some time to decide what you want to do with your new machine. Are you going to save photos and music down the line or are you just planning to surf the Internet, communicate with email and only save limited amount of data. The processor, RAM and hard drive are the major factors in what you buy. The processor is like a car's engine size, the RAM is equal to the amount and quality of fuel and the hard drive is the capacity of the storage compartment. The more you put into your computer, the more efficiency you get out of it. Yes...this means the more it costs. You can save some money by limiting the RAM but you will have to add more in a year or so. Swapping out the hard drive is possible on a tower (not laptop) plus you can always add an external drive. The processor probably will never be changed. Once that is obsolete, your computer is a door-stop. There will be a point in time when the RAM is no longer available at a reasonable cost.

So, if you want to save the most money today, get a good processor, get as much RAM as you can afford and don't worry about the size of the hard drive. A laptop will cost more just for the convenience factor and is harder to upgrade.

Remember, your current monitor, mouse and keyboard are universal so all you really need is only a new tower. Of course if you go for a laptop, everything is built in. Plan on spending at least \$450 on the tower. After that, you will be tempted with more RAM and a larger hard drive. You will be offered an extended warranty, better sound, games, and fancy gadgets like watching TV and multiple ports. Now you are on your own. Again like buying a car. The more options, the higher the price tag. I would stay away from off-branded computers. Stick with companies that have been around. Whether you buy online or retail, compare, compare, compare. This is a major purchase and something you will rely daily for many years.

Apple News:

I want an iPad. This new device costs \$499 - \$829. It was available as of April 3. The touch-screen is 9.7" X .5" thick. It weighs only 1.5# and its battery lasts ten hours. Surf the web, manage email, install 150,000 applications, read books, listen to music, browse photos and best of all watch your Netflix movies anywhere. Now all I need is a winning lottery ticket.

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