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### **How To Buy A Printer:**

Someone once said ours is becoming a paperless society. Have you seen the amount of material we still print? Just because we book tickets online, does not mean we don't have to print the receipt. OK...so what should you look for in a printer? There are basically two options, inkjet or laser. Inkjet printers have two or more ink cartridges containing a liquid dye. Laser ink is actually a powder. The liquid ink is limited in quantity and must be replaced or refilled often but the physical printer costs very little, beginning at around \$30, averaging around \$100. The laser printer costs around \$300 for a low-end machine. The refill cartridges are more expensive, but consider that you will get ten times the pages. It may be a washout depending on your usage. If you print very little in a year, the liquid ink could dry up while the powder will last much longer. I suggest buying a monochrome laser printer if you have no need for color. Your output of only around \$100 will save you money in the long run.

If you want an inkjet color printer, please choose one that has a cartridge for each of the four colors, unlike some printers that hold one color and one black. If you run out of red you will have to purchase an entire multi-color ink cartridge. I suggest you consider a printer that has at least three functions for the same approximate cost of only one. Print, scan, copy and sometimes fax are the options that come on many printers these days. For a few extra dollars you will have these tools at your fingertips. I like the wireless HP and Canon but check for how many ink cartridges it holds. HP and Dell make terrific laser printers for home and small business. Xerox and Kyocera are best for mainstream businesses.

### **How Long Should A Hard Drive Last?**

Great question. Your hard drive should last as long as your computer, which is 3-5 years. After that most computers are not only outdated but are getting slow putting a large amount of stress on the processor and the hard drive. This is where you store those precious photographs, your home or business data and even your contact list. Think about it. Although a hard drive is inexpensive, it is made fairly cheap. I have had a hard drive die within months of installing it and I have had some that have outlived the computer. The one thing I shall preach here is to back up your information as often as you feel it is important to you. I do this daily. Use an external secondary drive. A huge one will run you less than \$100 and are plug and use. To retrieve your lost information can run you into the thousands. Copy your photos to DVDs. Amen!

### **I MAKE HOUSE CALLS:**

I offer a 20% discount on my hourly rate for those aged 60 and over. I will come to your home or office and help you with almost any predicament. I have an endless amount of patience and knowledge. Give me a call at 419-318-9112. Don't forget to sign up for my FREE NEWSLETTER online. Subscribers will get unpublished hints and tips. References are always available upon request.

Janis Weber, B.A., owner of Ohio Computer Training, is a personal computer instructor. E-mail any specific questions or comments to [jwpctutor@gmail.com](mailto:jwpctutor@gmail.com) or contact her for assistance at 419-318-9112. Public classes are listed on her website: [www.OhComputerTraining.com](http://www.OhComputerTraining.com).