Computer Recommendations for Home Users

Processor: We recommend AMD processors as they are the better processor right now. However, if a customer does want to get Intel, they should get an i5 or an i7 processor.

Operating System: Windows 7 Home Premium Edition or above - in other words, NOT Windows 7 Home Basic. (There are 5 editions of Windows 7: Starter [used on netbooks], Home Basic, Home Premium, Pro and Ultimate. For 99% of home users, Home Premium is the edition they need.)

Operating System continued: Windows 7 comes in two formats: 32-bit and 64-bit. We recommend 64-bit as that is where every software company is going. 64-bit allows more than 4GB of memory, which is the most you can have with 32-bit. 64-bit allows for faster processor speeds. Please note: if a customer has a printer or scanner which is more than 2 years old, it MAY not work with 64-bit. So, that means that may also have to buy a new printer or scanner if they get a new computer.

Memory: The more the merrier. We recommend *at least* 3GB of memory. Again, more is better.

Other things like hard drive size, etc.: These items don’t really matter much. If a customer concentrates on the three things listed above, then the rest is not important. Most home users will never use the space now allowed in hard drives. So, if they see two computers which meet the criteria above, then it doesn’t matter if the hard drive size is 750GB (gigabyte) or 1TB (terabyte). Then, it’s a matter of price.

By the way, if the customer is looking for a laptop, the first thing they need to decide is screen size. Even if they have to go to a store just to look at the difference. There’s nothing worse than buying a laptop and then being unhappy with the screen size – because you can’t change it.