

1. Sun City Computer Guy

How to Buy a Laptop – A Shopping Guide March 2019

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NOTE: These are my recommendations for a general purpose laptop computer that will be primarily used by **Sun City Aliante residents** for: E-mail, Internet Surfing, Documents, Music, and Pictures.

Where to Buy: Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Office Depot, Staples, Costco, Sam’s Club, and many others.

NOTE: Consider if you will need Technical Service for Installation or Maintenance. Best Buy, Staples and many office supply stores offer installation services. Wal-Mart, Costco, and Sam’s Club typically do not.

When to Buy: Black Friday, Graduation, Easter, most any holiday... Sales happen every couple months

Brand to Buy – HP/Compaq, Dell, Compaq, Acer, Asus, Lenovo, Sony, Fry’s, and Toshiba. Unlike years ago, all are essentially equal for quality and Tech Support.

Recommended Laptop Minimum Configuration - \$500-\$750. There is no need to buy more capability than this. It can be expensive without much benefit! Don’t spend less than \$450 or you will get cheap junk that you will regret.

- **Operating System** Windows 10 – Home Premium
- **CPU Processor** Intel Core i5 or i7. I do not recommend an AMD processor
- **RAM Memory** 6GB
- **Hard disk** 500GB. A Solid State hard drive (SSD) is very fast but much more expensive. Not a good value yet. I do not recommend a SSD for now.
- **Optical drive** Optional: DVD Drive Dual Layer. Do not buy a Blu-Ray drive. Most folks no longer need it.
- **Screen Size** Between 15-16”. The single biggest price driver Bigger screen, more \$\$\$
- **Anti-Virus** **None** – Windows 10 comes with a free anti-virus: WINDOWS DEFENDER.
- **Printer** Color Inkjet (\$60). I prefer Canon or Brother printers, but all are good.
- **Software** **Free** word processing (Wordpad) and email programs come with Windows 10. They are quite good and you don’t need anything else. But, if you insist, Microsoft Office Home & Student (about \$149) or Office 365 (about \$99/year). Come see me about this.

Do not buy anything else. No extended warranty. No extra software of any kind – yet.

If you need a computer for more advanced uses, use these requirements as a starter. You should stop by to talk to me on Thursday mornings in the Community Center to discuss your requirements and a computer that will meet your needs.