

Vero Beach Computer Group: November 1, 2010 General Meeting

Topic: Shopping for a new computer for the holidays

Speaker: Eric Price, club president



Determine Specs (what you are looking for)

- Netbook \$300-500

	Good	Better	Best
Size of Screen	9"	10"	11"
Brand	Acer	Toshiba/Asus	HP
Warranty	90 days	1yr	3yrs
Memory	1Gb	2Gb	4Gb
OS	Windows XP	Windows 7 Starter	Windows 7 Home Premium
Hard Drive	80Gb	120Gb	250Gb

- Netbook Options: Case, USB DVD Drive, Flash Stick for Backups

- Laptop (Notebook) - \$400-1500

	Good	Better	Best
Size of Screen	14"	15.6"	17.3"
Brand	Acer/Gateway/Averatac	Toshiba/Dell/Asus	HP/Sony/Lenovo
Warranty	90 days	1yr	3yrs
Memory	2Gb	3Gb	4Gb
OS	Windows 7 Home Premium 32-bit	Windows 7 Home Premium 64-bit	Windows 7 Ultimate 64-bit
Hard Drive	240Gb	500Gb	1Tb
Weight	8lbs	6lbs	4lbs
Intel CPU	i3	i5	i7

- Laptop Options: Case, Blu-Ray

- Desktop - \$600-1200

	Good	Better	Best
Size of Screen	19"	21"	23"
Brand	Acer/Gateway/eMachine	Dell/Compaq	HP/Sony/Lenovo
Warranty	90 days	1yr	3yrs
Memory	2Gb	4Gb	6Gb
OS	Windows 7 Home Premium 32-bit	Windows 7 Home Premium 64-bit	Windows 7 Ultimate 64-bit
Hard Drive	240Gb	500Gb	1Tb
Intel CPU	i3	i5	i7

- Includes Monitor?
- Includes Software?
- Windows 7 64-bit
- Options: Speakers, Wireless Mouse, Wifi Adapter, Battery Backup

Determine Source (where to buy)

- Best Buy
- Apple Store (West Palm Beach)
- Office Depot
- Wal-Mart
- Target
- Staples
- Radio Shack
- Sams Club (must be a member)
- Other Local Store
- E-Bay (www.ebay.com)
- Amazon (www.amazon.com)
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Tips (save money and time)

- Comparison shop
- Use website to check availability
- Use website to compare prices
- If in stock at store, print pricing from website in case store has different pricing
- Stay in budget
- Check clearance and restocks at each store
- Go to store during off-peak hours
- Do your research online rather than at the store
- Make up your mind - budget your time!
- Check for discounts if you use a store card (Target is 5% off)
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