



# DESKTOP BUYER'S GUIDE

With Summer winding down, it's time to prepare for school. Fall is a popular time to upgrade your desktop PC. To assist you, we present this PC Buyer's guide, so you can create the perfect PC for your life.

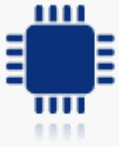
PART 1 of 2

**1 Desktop Buyer's Guide**

**2 Notebook Buyer's Guide**  
(coming next)

## CUSTOMIZE YOUR PC

Here are the top things you should consider when buying a new Desktop.



### Processor

The processor chip is the engine of your PC.

The least expensive processor chips include the Intel® Celeron and AMD Sempron. Go economical for basics like e-mail and web browsing only..

Step up to the Intel Pentium 4 or an AMD Athlon 64 if you're going to be playing games, editing photos, watching movies, or running several programs at the same time.

High-end graphics, music and video editing demand top chips like the Intel Core 2 Duo or the AMD Athlon 64x2.

- GOOD** Intel® Celeron  
AMD Sempron
- BETTER** Intel® Pentium 4  
AMD Athlon 64
- BEST** Intel® Core 2 Duo  
AMD Athlon 64 X2



### Hard Drive

Think of your hard drive as a storage cabinet. The more stuff you have, the more storage you need.

Start with 80 Gigabytes (GB). If you'll be storing many photos and tunes move up to 160GB. Hard drives go up to 500 GB.

You'll also want to consider the LightScribe Disc labeling system. It burns CDs or DVDs and allows you to put your art directly on the disc. It's perfect for backing up files, photos, or creating music discs.

- 80GB** **160GB** **500GB**
- GOOD** **BETTER** **BEST**



### RAM

How much RAM is enough? 512 MB (megabytes) of memory is standard for everyday needs like Web surfing, home finances and projects.

But in order to handle new, larger and more complex applications for video or photo editing, downloading photos and videos, editing higher end graphics, etc., it may be worth considering installing 1GB (gigabyte) or 2 GB (gigabytes) of RAM memory.

- 512MB** **1GB** **4GB**
- GOOD** **BETTER** **BEST**



### Monitor

Slim, lightweight, flat-screen HP LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) monitors have virtually replaced the bulkier CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) displays.

The most common screen sizes are 15 and 17 inches.

But if your work involves graphic design, or if you're primarily interested in a larger viewing area for TV, movies, multimedia and gaming, consider 19 or 21 inches.

- 15IN** **17IN** **21IN**
- GOOD** **BETTER** **BEST**