

CHOOSING A NEW COMPUTER

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What do you want to do?

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- Browse the Internet
- Email
- Word Processing
- Spreadsheets
- Photography
- Video Editing
- Play Games
- On-line Games

Type of Computer

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- Hardware
 - ▣ Desktop
 - ▣ Laptop
 - ▣ Netbook
- Operating System
 - ▣ Microsoft Windows 7 Home Premium
 - ▣ Linux - Ubuntu
 - ▣ MAC OS

Networking

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- Wired
 - ▣ Usually needed to set up Wireless network
 - ▣ More suitable for desktop computers
- Wireless
 - ▣ More appropriate for laptops
 - ▣ Several standards, uses 2,4 GHz unregulated band
 - 802.11a – rare in UK
 - 802.11b – 11 Mbit, obsolete
 - 802.11g – 55 Mbit, still common
 - 802.11n – 135 Mbit, latest standard

32 or 64 bit

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- Most machines are now 64 bit
- MOST programs will run in 32 bit mode on 64 bit Operating Systems. 64 bit versions will become available but may cost more initially
- Exceptions
 - ▣ Device drivers must be Signed and this may prevent older devices running on 64 bit OS – check the Web
 - ▣ Disk Partitioning (Easeus or Partition Wizard)
 - 32 bit version is free in both cases
 - 64 bit version consider Partition Wizard as alternative

Choosing a CPU

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- The choices include
 - ▣ Intel or AMD
 - ▣ Numbers of cores
 - 1 core
 - 2 core
 - More cores
 - Hyperthreading
- Don't worry too much about the differences unless you are into video. This site might help:
 - ▣ <http://www.cpubenchmark.net/index.php>

Storage

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- Disk
 - Web and Office say 160 Gbyte
 - Photos editing 250 to 500 Gbyte
 - But could be on external drive
 - Video editing LOTS
- Random Access Memory
 - Windows 7 Home Premium
 - 32 bit 2 Gbyte
 - 64 bit 4 Gbyte

Office Tools

- ❑ **Do not assume that your new Windows computer has any Word Processing software**
 - ▣ Many new machines come with limited use versions of Office 2010 pre-installed
 - relatively cheap upgrade to full version
 - ▣ Some machines now come with a cut-down version
 - ▣ Microsoft Office 2010 Home is about £80
 - ▣ Open Office is free alternative
 - I use Open Office

Email

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- Windows 7 does NOT come with any email client
- Need to download and install a client
 - ▣ Microsoft Live Mail is free and is the Outlook Express replacement. It has some Outlook features
 - You either love or hate the interface
 - ▣ Thunderbird
 - ▣ There must be others