

# Computer Hardware Shopping Presentation Notes

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#### **CPUs: prefer 64-bit and two or more cores**

##### Intel

Atom (seen in netbooks and small PCs)

32-bit

1 or 2 cores

DDR2 RAM

Pentium, Core and Core 2

32- and 64 bit

1, 2, or 4 cores

DDR2 RAM

Core i7

64-bit

4 or 8 cores

DDR3 RAM (faster RAM interface)

##### AMD

Athlon, Sempron

1 or 2 cores

32- and 64-bit

DDR and DDR2 RAM

Phenom

64-bit

2, 3, or 4 cores

DDR2 RAM

Phenom II

64-bit

2, 3, or 4 cores

DDR3 RAM

#### **Storage for Desktops**

- 3.5" rotating drives available up to 2 TB (1 TB under \$100) either rotating or solid state
- Solid state 2.5" basic 16 GB for \$75, fast 160 GB ~\$450, 256GB ~\$500
- 2.5" rotating drives up to 1 TB (250 GB for \$60, 750 GB for \$180)

#### **Hardware Needs vs. Usage**

- General web surfing and office applications: Atom is great, great battery life, very portable,

inexpensive

- Video and photo editing: faster, two cores or better CPU preferable, 4 GB or more RAM, mid to upper line notebook or desktop, more hard drive storage preferred
- Gaming: fastest CPU possible, 8 GB RAM minimum, fast GPU, fast hard drive, prefer desktop to minimize compromises
- Consider screen, keyboard, mouse size for long term computing—connect laptop to full size KVM

#### Shopping options:

- Retail: Vista and Mac (some Linux)
  - Pluses
    - Try before buy
    - Check look/feel
    - Custom configurations from custom builders
  - Minuses
    - Not best prices
- Mail Order (build your own)
  - Pluses
    - Best prices
    - Custom specifications
    - No pressure for warranty or add-ons
  - Minuses
    - Can't try out

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