

# Computer Buying Guide



Mon November 24<sup>th</sup> 2014  
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## We'll cover:

- Work backwards
- Types of computers
- Operating systems
- Brands
- Computer stats (what do they mean?)
- Consumer reports
- Black Friday Deals!!!

It's often difficult to keep up with technology trends and new products.

Smart technology shopping will help you buy products which fit your needs, last longer, and perform better.

Now is the perfect time to buy with many items heavily discounted because of the holiday season.



Here at EPL

Before you even start looking at computers it's important to ask a few questions to yourself:

## **What am I going to use this computer for?**

- What kind of programs do I need
- Where am I going to use it?
- How much money am I willing to spend?

What is and isn't a computer is a lot more complicated

Types of computers include:

- Desktops
- Laptops
- Tablets
  - Tablets with detachable keyboards

The most important question to consider when looking at laptops and tablets now

Whether the device has a full operating system

### **Mobile Operating System**

Requires application downloads to be handled through App store  
File Management Much more difficult  
Might not be able to download and edit files

### **Full Operating System**

Traditional computer setup including downloading and editing files, just in tablet format

People have very strong opinions about operating systems!

Windows 8 was released, which drastically changed the menus and style of Windows, to widespread criticism. Following feedback Windows 8.1 made a large series of updates in 8.1. To save yourself a lot of time (and maybe money) it can be beneficial to purchase a computer which already has the updated version. If you really dislike Windows 8.1, the next operating system Windows 10 is scheduled to release sometime in the next 8-10 months.

One of the newest developments for laptops is Google's line of "Chromebooks"  
Chromebooks have several manufacturer including Asus, Acer, HP

Benefits include: Extremely low cost 200-400 dollars each , google operating system, nice design

Cons include- Unable to download applications, storage space provided by google drive, almost not hard drive space



<https://www.google.com/chrome/devices/chromebooks.html>





A new development in the last 2-3 years has been tablets with detachable keyboards -- these computers are slightly tricky to buy because some have full operating systems and others use mobile operating systems

It can be overwhelming to look at so many computers' statistics and people often buy more than they need because they are looking for bigger numbers

## Apple MacBook Pro MGX72LL/A 13.3-Inch Laptop with Retina Display (NEWEST VERSION)

by Apple

★★★★☆ | 211 customer reviews | 45 answered questions

List Price: ~~\$4,299.00~~

Price: **\$1,279.00** & FREE SHIPPING

You Save: **\$20.00** (2%)

Note: Not eligible for Amazon Prime

In Stock

Ships from and sold by DataVision Computer Video.

Capacity: 128 GB

128 GB

256 GB

512 GB

Style: 13.3-Inch

13.3-Inch

15.4-Inch



Get advice about this product. [Talk to a specialist now](#)

- 2.6 GHz Dual-Core Intel Core i5 Processor (Turbo Boost up to 3.1 GHz, 3 MB shared L3 cache)
- 8 GB 1600 MHz DDR3L RAM; 128 GB PCIe-based Flash Storage
- 13.3-inch IPS Retina Display, 2560-by-1600 resolution
- Intel Iris Graphics
- OS X Mavericks, Up to 9 Hours of Battery Life

[See more product details](#)

2 used from \$900.00 | 1 refurbished from \$1,230.49

This item's packaging will be visible when delivered and cannot be gift-wrapped.

Hard drive/storage space/ capacity: Measured in GB (gigabytes) or TB (terabytes) this is the space to store programs and files on the computer

Processor/Cores etc.: The processor is the brain of the computer – older computers had a single processor which did all the computation and processing, modern computers however have multiple processors linked together (each one is called core) this is helpful for multitasking such as running multiple programs at once most computers are more than fine with 2-4 cores but more may be needed for professional design software and gaming

RAM (random access memory): this is the working/short term memory of the computer, 4GB of ram should be more than enough for most users

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There are several brands which come with Windows Operating Systems installed including ASUS, ACER, Dell, HP, Samsung, Windows and More

Apple computers are also extremely popular (although a small share of the market share) and use the Mac operating system. While more reliable Apple products tend to be 10-30% more expensive than their competitors

Laptops: Apple, Gateway, and Toshiba needed the smallest number of repairs according to Consumer reports with Asus more repair prone (Dec 2014)

Tablets & Devices: Apple, Samsung needed less repairs with Asus and HP more repair prone(Dec 2014)

(Best Buy)



Asus - 11.6" Laptop - Intel Atom - 2GB Memory - 32GB Flash Memory - Blue

SKU: 9377126

PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE

Add to Cart

**\$179.99**

FREE SHIPPING



Toshiba - Satellite 15.6" Laptop - AMD A8-Series - 4GB Memory - 500GB Hard Drive - Jet Black

SKU: 8790174

PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE

Add to Cart

**\$299.99**

FREE SHIPPING



Select Intel Powered Laptops

Get the Deal

**Save up to \$100**

ON SALE

FREE SHIPPING



Apple® - MacBook Air® (Latest Model) - 13.3" Display - Intel Core i5 - 4GB Memory - 128GB Flash Storage

SKU: 2712009

PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE

Add to Cart

**\$899.99**

ON SALE

Regular Price: \$999.99

You Save: \$100.00

FREE SHIPPING

Some of the best sites to check are:

## **Big Box Stores**

Best Buy

Target

Walmart (tablets)

## **But also online retailers such as**

Amazon

Newegg

Multiple sites also combine and let you search for deals including:

blackfriday.com

<http://www.theblackfriday.com/>

<http://bfads.net/>



## *Upcoming Classes*

### **Build Your Web Visibility**

Thursday December 4<sup>th</sup>

7:00pm -8:00pm

### **Android for Beginners**

Friday December 5<sup>th</sup>

10:00am-12:00pm



<https://www.google.com/chrome/devices/chromebooks.html>

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00KX8ONZ2/ref=s9\\_hps\\_ft\\_g147\\_ir22/176-5689111-4700166?pf\\_rd\\_m=ATVPDKIKX0DER&pf\\_rd\\_s=center-3&pf\\_rd\\_r=04ZT7TQZ334AFQ7SSS1D&pf\\_rd\\_t=1401&pf\\_rd\\_p=1885951322&pf\\_rd\\_i=1000971001](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00KX8ONZ2/ref=s9_hps_ft_g147_ir22/176-5689111-4700166?pf_rd_m=ATVPDKIKX0DER&pf_rd_s=center-3&pf_rd_r=04ZT7TQZ334AFQ7SSS1D&pf_rd_t=1401&pf_rd_p=1885951322&pf_rd_i=1000971001)