# Computer Buying Guide

## Hardware Type
Tablet, **Laptop**, or desktop? (an all-in-one, where the computer and monitor are one unit, is pictured far right). Desktops are better for storing a lot of files, a laptop for creating a lot of documents, and a tablet is for reading emails and surfing the web.

## Operating System
**Windows** (Microsoft), iOS or Mac (Apple), and Chrome (Google) are your main choices. Unless you’re up for a learning curve, the best bet is to stick with what you know.

### Notes:
- If you go with Windows, stay away from S Mode.
- If you want to play DVDs, stay away from Chrome.

## Screen Size
The two squares in the picture on the left the only part of the webpage that contains what you’re trying to read. This would be tough to read with a smaller screen. Start at **15”**.

## Drive Type
Solid State Drives (**SSD**) are newer and faster but you’ll get less space. Hard Disk Drives (**HDD**) will provide you with more storage but are slower because of moving parts.

## RAM
The RAM (or Random Access Memory) is the type of memory that’s used during active tasks. Never go below **4 GB**.

## Processor
The Processor (or CPU) is the brains of the computer. Intel is the most common. Look for a spec that starts with **i5**. Unless you’re a gamer, you don’t need to worry about the number of **cores** that are mentioned.

## Software
Windows computers no longer come with **Office** (Word, Excel, etc…) so you’ll need to purchase a subscription as well.

New computers will also come with a free trial of an Antivirus application. You should uninstall it and if you went with Windows, the **Defender** application will cover you. Macs and Chromebook don’t need a third party antivirus either.