

Super Mike's Computer Service – Tips for buying a new PC

What to look for when buying a new computer tower or laptop?

- As a general rule of thumb the most important things to consider are processor and memory. An Intel Core i3 or better for the processor is recommended. As for computer memory there are 2 types, RAM and DISK (hard drive). RAM is a performance based "temp" memory and you should look for a computer with 4GB+. DISK memory (hard drive) is measured in GB's as well but is a computers "long-term" storage area. This is where the Windows files, programs files, and your user files are stored. For 99% of computer users DISK storage is not an issue, we rarely fill our hard drives. 500GB or larger will work fine for most users.

What else do I need to think about when I purchase a new computer?

- Think about how you use your current computer. What programs are you running on a regular basis? Word, Excel, Quicken, Skype, Quickbooks? You will need to install these programs on a new computer. For example if you run Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint or Outlook) then you will need the install CD to install the program on the computer. Making a list of your programs prepares you for the switch to a new computer.

Should I purchase anti-virus with my new computer?

- Super Mike's recommended Microsoft Security Essentials, a free anti-virus software provided by Microsoft. If you choose to purchase a security software program keep in mind a paid subscription is part of the deal.

Warranty?

- Always up to the consumer but consider the facts. Computer manufactures have been in the business for 20+ years and are making quality products. The 1 year warranty that's included with a new computer is for hardware failure only. Hardware failures happen but are not as common as software failures. Software failures (Windows errors, program errors, and viruses) are not covered in the 1 manufacture warranty. Most consumers go with the 1 year warranty and take their chances.

How do I setup my new computer for use?

- First, backup your old computer. Second, get the new computer up and running. It's good practice to remove any preinstalled junk software on the computer. Third, install your programs and any external devices like printers or scanners. Finally, transfer your user data to the new computer. Computer setup can be a technical process and requesting some help is recommended. A new computer "out-of-the-box" still needs to go through a setup process.

What to do with the old computer?

- The big rule is to remove the hard drive from the old computer before you dispose. The hard drive contains your user data and you should retain it. Best Buy has a recycling program and takes up to 3 items per visit. Some fees may apply for CRT monitors or older TV's.

Super Mike's can assist you in switching to a new computer. We have a flat rate service to help you get into a new computer fast. The service includes computer recommendations, onsite setup (1.5 hr), and configuration of the new computer. The fee for this service is \$109. Thanks for your business.

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