



## John Watson Computer Services

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Look for something with the following spec...

### **Processor:**

Intel Core i3 or i5.

The Intel Core i7 is very powerful but you'll be paying extra for something that you won't benefit from.

### **Hard Drive:**

256Gb SSD (solid state drive) less storage but very fast. No moving parts.

As an example of size a 256Gb SSD can hold about 25,000 photos.

From turning on the computer you can use it in about 30 secs.

**or**

1Tb (1000Gb) spinning drive. 4 times more storage but slower than an SSD.

As an example of size a 1Tb spinning drive can hold over 100,000 photos.

From turning on the computer you can use it in about 90 secs.

Basically if you need a lot of storage space go for the spinning drive otherwise go for the SSD.

Usually it doesn't refer to a spinning drive, it just won't say SSD.

### **Memory:**

4Gb or 8Gb of memory is fine.

The more memory you get the faster the computer but the more expensive.

### **Laptops:**

come in different screen sizes now 13", 14" or 15.4". You can still get the 17 inch but they are few and far between now.

### **Desktop Computers:**

These have a box (or tower) that usually sit under the desk. They tend to be used by gamers now who need very powerful computers so they can be expensive. Also remember when you buy one you may have to buy a new screen as well unless you already have an up to date one.

### **All-In-One computers:**

If you're not going for a laptop these are the most popular nowadays. They're a screen from about 23" upwards and the whole computer is built into it, so no big box under the desk.

If you buy one with a wireless keyboard and mouse the only cable is usually the power cable so fewer cables! If the model you want doesn't have a wireless keyboard and mouse don't worry you can always buy a set for about £30.

### **Rule of Thumb Pricing:**

Look for something between £300 - £650. Anything less and you're buying a slower computer (unless it's a special deal) and anything more you're paying for power that you'll probably never use.

### **Manufacturers:**

All these manufacturers are ok and most are available at PCWORLD.

HP, Lenovo, Acer, Asus, Sony, Toshiba, IBM, Fujitsu, Gateway, NEC, Dell.

Dell is considered the best and used by for example the NHS and Police Service.

PCWORLD sell very few Dell computers so you may want to look on [www.dell.co.uk](http://www.dell.co.uk).

### **Apple Computers:**

Good computers but very different from Microsoft Windows. If you're going from a Windows computer to an Apple computer expect a steep learning curve. They are usually around twice the price of a Windows computer.

### **Chromebooks**

A Chromebook is an alternative to a Windows laptop. They run on the Google operating system Chrome OS, which means that Windows programs don't work on these devices. Ok if you only want to go on the Internet but you won't be able to load programs such as Word and cannot store photos on them.

**Make sure if you're buying a Windows laptop that you don't buy a Chromebook as they look the same.**

### **Further Help:**

If you need any further help I offer an accompanied buying service where I will come with you to, for example, PCWORLD and help you choose a computer, then go to your home and set it up and transfer data from your old computer. The whole process usually takes two hours.

This information is based on normal day to day use of a computer ie. not a gaming machine.