Discovering Computers

Fundamentals Edition



Purchasing a Computer

Today

- **Things to consider when purchasing a Computer**
- **The spreadsheet exercise**
- **Final project**

Things to consider when purchasing a computer

1) Hardware – The tangible parts of the computer

- Processing hardware – CPU and RAM must be considered first!
- Input devices –These come standard.
- Output devices – Monitor and printer are variable.
- Storage devices – hard drive measured by capacity.
- Communications – wireless modem most important.

Purchasing computer hardware?

Will it be a …

- PC or MAC?
- Desktop or Mobile computer?

Purchasing computer hardware

- **A general rule of thumb is:**
  - Purchase the most powerful **processor** you can afford!!!
  - Don't get caught up in the gimmicks
- **Evaluate and compare the processor speed**
  - This is the one thing you will not be able to change later
- **Stay with the name brands unless you really know what you are doing!!**















Processor

Complete CPU comparison

Which processor should you select?

- **It is a tough decision – there are many to choose from**

Intel	
Celeron D	Budget variety – single core
Pentium 4	Single core
Pentium D	Dual core
Pentium M	Mobile, single core
Core 2	
Core 2 Duo	Dual core
Core 2 Quad	4 core

AMD	
Sempron	Budget variety
Athlon 64	true 64-bit
Athlon 64 FX	better performance
Athlon 64 X2	Dual core
Turion	Mobile

Things to consider when purchasing a computer

2) Software – The instructions

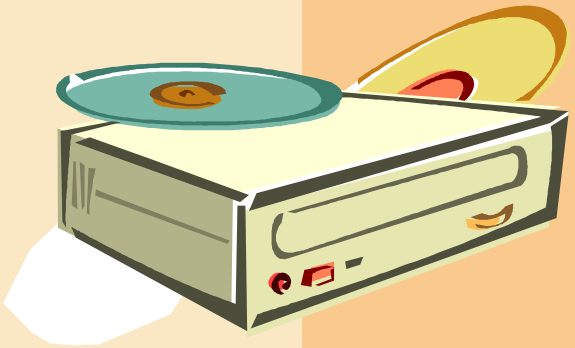
- System software – software the computer needs to operate itself
  - Operating system – Windows Vista is preinstalled.
  - Utilities – Security software is critical

- Application software – software that makes the user productive
  - Depends on the needs of the user

Software for purchase

- **Bundled software**
  - software that is sold with the computer hardware

- **Most computers do NOT come bundled with all the software you will need**



Application software that typical home based users need:

- **Web Browser**
- **Word processing**
- **spreadsheet**
- **presentation**
- **Database**
- **DTP**
- **PIM**
- **Email**
- **Web page development**
- **Bookkeeping**

Things to consider when purchasing a computer

3) Services

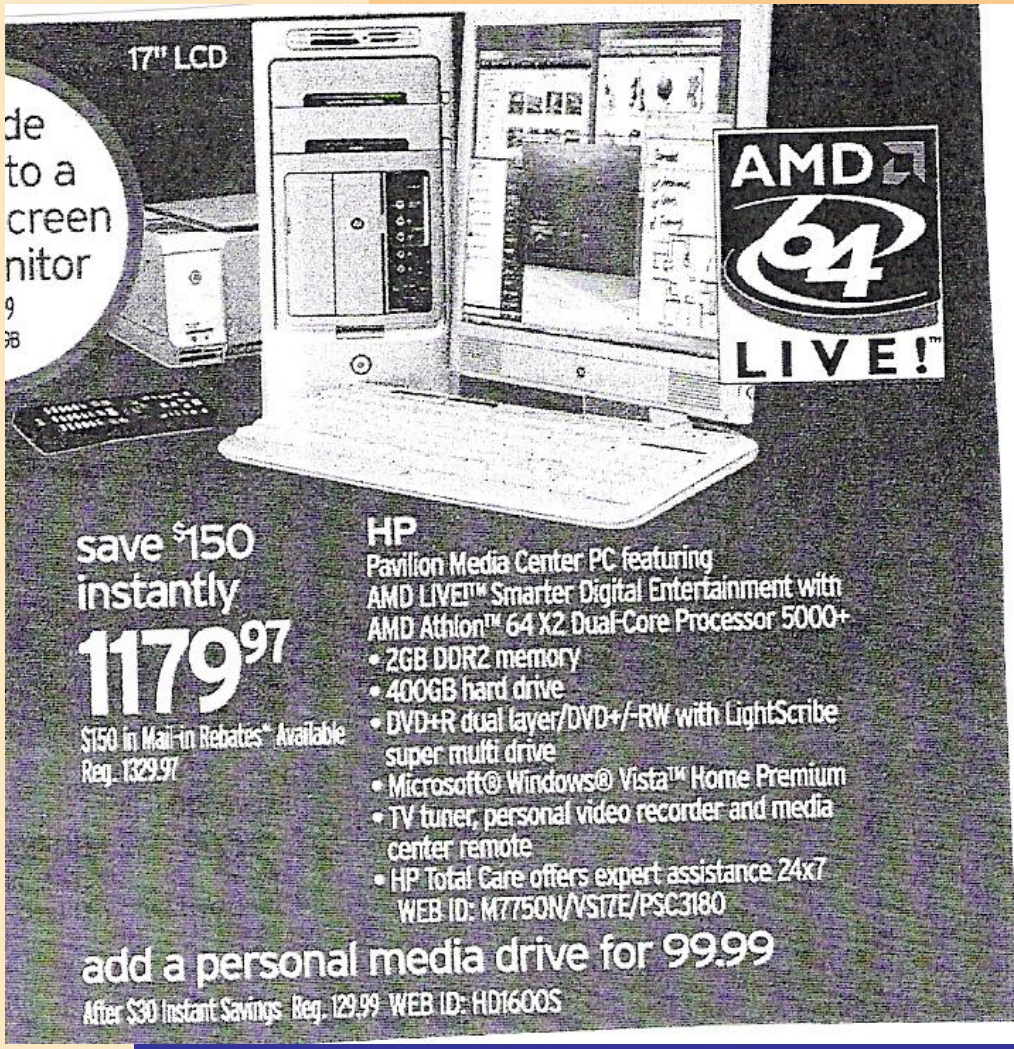
- Warranty
- Service agreement
- Internet service – Requires hardware, software, an internet connection (high or slow speed), and an ISP.
- Web page service – Requires web host, and domain name registration and web page creation software, and FTP.
- Email – requires an internet connection and email software
- Vendor – support, reputation
- Terms – Leasing, Return policy, Shipping and handling, Installation

Which one would you buy?

Computer #1



Computer #2



Class exercise:

1. **Get into your groups**

2. **Use a worksheet to compare these two computers**

3. **Decide, as a group, which computer you would buy and why**

Use a worksheet to compare computers

BASE COMPONENTS COMPARISON		
	Computer 1	***Computer 2***
Co./ Make	Gateway	HP
Price	$900 - $670 w/ rebate	$1330 – $1160 w/ rebate
Processor	Intel Pentium D 915	AMD Athelon 64 x2 Dual core 5000+
RAM	1 GB	2 GB
Printer	Lexmark all-in-one	
Hard Disk	250 GB	400 GB
CD/DVD	DVD +R and DVD +/- RW	DVD +R and DVD +/- RW
Operating System	Vista Home Premium	Vista Home Premium

Complete CPU comparison

The Final Project