

COMPUTER SPECIFICATION (HARDWARE)

Computer hardware specifications are technical descriptions of the computer's components and capabilities. Processor speed, model and manufacturer. Processor speed is typically indicated in gigahertz (GHz). The higher the number, the faster the computer. Random Access Memory (RAM), This is typically indicated in gigabytes (GB). The more RAM in a computer the more it can do simultaneously. Hard disk (sometimes called ROM) space. This is typically indicated in gigabytes (GB) and refers generally to the amount of information (like documents, music and other data) your computer can hold. Other specifications might include network (ethernet or wi-fi) adapters or audio and video capabilities.

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What are Good Laptop Specs?

- **Processor** – An integral part of the laptop, the processor will determine how powerful your computer is. There are two main players in the laptop space, Intel and AMD, although the vast majority of the models you'll find on store shelves will feature an Intel chip. These typically come in the flavour of i3, i5, i7 or i9. In the most basic terms, the bigger the number, the better the processor.

The brains of the laptop, the better the processor, the faster your computer will run. For a dependable laptop, an Intel i3 is fine, but an i5 will guarantee good speeds. Laptops with i7 chips cost a lot more, and are more suited to those running design software or games.

The processor, effectively the brains of the laptop, is seen by many as being the most important part of a laptop, and while that's true to some degree, it's also important to match it to hardware that will allow it to work to the best of its abilities, such as RAM and a graphics card. Don't just buy the most powerful processor you can find and expect to be set.

- **Screen** – Screen resolution is also something to watch out for. It signifies the number of pixels that are shown onscreen – the bigger the number, the higher the detail. Most laptops will have an HD resolution of 1920 x 1080, which is good enough for daily work and movies, but if you're looking to do

some gaming or carry out some image editing, then you'll benefit from a higher resolution. The MacBook Pro range for example has its famous Retina screens, which boast a resolution of 2560 x 1600, making for pin sharp images.

Size and resolution of screen will have a big impact on your experience. It's best not to go smaller than a 13-inch screen, though you can live without 4K displays unless you're a professional designer or photo-editor. Full HD resolution is fine.

- **Storage Space** – Do you go for a traditional hard disk (HDD) or a solid state (SSD) one?

It all depends on your needs. If you mainly use your laptop for surfing the web, emailing and writing the odd document, then you won't need too much space, and chances are it will take you a long time to fill up a fairly typical 500gb hard drive. The rise in digital streaming and cloud storage mean that most of us don't need as much room as we once did.

However, if you're the sort of person who hoards movies, music and want all your games installed at once, then you're going to want to go with a pretty large hard drive. The best way to gauge how much space you need is to look at what's on your current laptop, how much of it you'll want to transfer over, and then at least double that space.

You'll have noticed that you get less storage space on an SSD for your buck compared to a HDD. This is because SSDs are faster and can really ramp up the time it takes to load your programs, or even your operating system. The best solution is a SSD/HDD combination, which gives you speed start up times coupled with loads of storage.

The amount of space you can use to store your files. It's best not to accept less than 256GB for a solid state drive (SSD, which helps laptops run faster), or less than 1TB for a traditional hard drive (not as fast, but more generous with the storage).

- **RAM** – RAM is vitally important in laptops, as it controls the number of functions the machine can do at once. You might not think it, but your laptop is constantly multi-tasking, juggling your requirements and keeping a several operations running at the same time. With RAM, the more the better, but decking out your laptop with 32GB of RAM can get not only expensive, but also excessive. Get a laptop with not enough RAM though, and it'll chug its way through every action, and almost weep at being asked to carry out anything vaguely complex.

Used for juggling multiple applications at once. More RAM can give you a speed boost. These days, 8GB RAM is the minimum to aim for. 16GB or 32GB is only needed for high-end machines.

- **Graphics card** – Do you need a graphics card? If you're an avid gamer or someone who wants to edit a lot of images and video, then the answer is yes. If you're mainly emailing, surfing and writing the odd office document, then no.

There's two things to know about graphics cards on laptops. Unlike desktops PCs, they're practically impossible to retrofit, and they're expensive. This means that if you want one, not only do you need to buy a laptop with one installed from the off, you also have to make sure that it's future proof and will stand you in good stead for a few years. Thanks to the 21st century gold rush for bitcoin, prices for graphics cards, which are a core component for mining, are now inflated.

An additional graphics card is used for gaming and image editing. If you only need to browse the web, email and stream video, you can live without an advanced graphics card.