

DEC-FEB
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Seasons greeting to you all, I am amazed how quickly this year has flown past. Thank you very much for your continued support and customer referrals. We wish you a fabulous Christmas and a very happy New Year. As ever, we will be on hand to help with your technology issues over the festive period and especially look forward to helping you set up your new Christmas gadgets!

TEKKIE HELP NEWS

TEKKIE HELP CAR FLEET

We are very excited to now have a fleet of Tekkie Help cars transporting our team to your door. Look out for the silver cars all silver shiny and branded up!

NEW PARTNERSHIP

We are proud to announce a new partnership with Noodle Photography. Noodle provides expertise and training for customers who have more complex photographic support requirements.

www.noodlephotography.com



This issue

Tips on buying a computer
Christmas gift ideas
Apple Family Sharing
The App Zone

What to look for in your new computer

5 key tips to help you make the right choice

Time to treat yourself to a new computer? If it is, you're in luck! There has never been a time with such great choices. Whether you are looking for a computer to run demanding applications/games or for day to day use, picking the right PC (Mac or Windows) can be a daunting task and that is why we are here to help.

The savvy buyer knows that there are five key features to pay attention to when selecting a PC: Processor type; memory; screen size and graphics capabilities; battery life; and storage. Almost all devices are than capable of handling basic tasks like surfing the Web or reading and writing email. When you want more out of your PC, pay attention to our short buyer's guide, because these aspects are what make certain models really stand out. Here are our tips that will help you pick the right system.

The Processor

The processor is, and will always be, one of the most important considerations when purchasing a computer. Most computers come with an Intel processor that are powerful enough for the most demanding tasks but use very little power. There are three basic types on the consumer market - Intel® Core™ i7, i5 and i3. If you need a very fast system that gives top performance which can handle heavy-duty computing tasks like video editing or gaming, look for the Intel® Core™ i7 processor. For most uses, i5 is fast enough and gives a good balance between speed/performance and cost. i3 is sufficient for entry level (such as your kids) – but beware we find i3 frustratingly slow!

Memory (RAM)

Memory is also one of the most important purchasing decisions on a computer. The more memory in the computer, the more efficient and faster the computer is capable of running. We advise you to buy the most memory your budget can afford. The ideal memory (RAM) is 8GB or 16GB. The absolute minimum should be 4GB.

Storage

Photos, music, videos, documents... It seems like there's no end to the digital stuff we create these days. We can store some of it in the cloud, but there are always essential items and applications we need to keep close at hand. Many new machines have solid state drives (SSDs) which are much faster than standard hard drives (as well as much more expensive!). SSDs are not always the best option though as they offer less space for the money, so are less cost-effective. Due to the limited space they are not ideal for storing large amounts of data (especially big photo libraries). If you are looking to buy a PC to hold all of your photos, media and documents, we recommend a standard hard drive of at least 1TB.

Screen size and graphic capability

Are bigger screens necessarily better? Not always. Larger screens add weight to your system and draw more power. But if you want to keep lots of windows visible at the same time, play a complex game, or edit your photo collection, you need a roomy screen and powerful graphics. Remember screen size is measured diagonally across the part of the screen that lights up.

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In our opinion, minimum screen size should be 13" for a laptop and 24" for a desktop.

Battery life

There are two ways to learn about the battery life of a system you'd like to buy. It's often listed in the sales material on the web or in the store.

If it isn't, check the spec sheet and see if the battery contains two, three, or four cells. The more cells, the

more power the battery packs, although each additional cell adds weight to the system. So, there you have it, the five key aspects to consider when you are buying a computer. These apply whether you are buying a Mac or Windows PC.

If you would like any further advice on purchasing a new computer, specific for your needs, feel free to give us a call on 81138682.

All I want for Christmas is a.....

Check out these great technology gift ideas



Struggling for Christmas gifts? Search no longer with these great ideas.

▪ **New tablet or smart phone**

Portable devices just get better and better each year. We think the hottest ones on the market include Google's Nexus 6, as well as the iPhone 6. An impressive new tablet is the Microsoft Surface Pro3. This hybrid device could make your laptop extinct. Its powerful Intel Haswell chip offers more power than a tablet while doubling its battery life, its form is (quite literally) more flexible than a MacBook Air and it has a keyboard cover that's actually a pleasure to use.

▪ **SONOS Speaker(s)**

Anyone will be delighted to receive a SONOS wireless speaker. They are extremely cool and what sets them out from other wireless speakers is the way you can tap into Spotify and also listen to virtually any radio station in the world. The largest Play 5 speaker is \$699, the Play 3 is \$499 and the smallest Play 1 is just \$349. We can supply the speakers and come to your house to set them up *before* you wrap them up. All the lucky recipient will need to do on Christmas Day is plug in and Play!

▪ **Kindle Voyage**

Looking like it might be the best Kindle ever, the Voyage is a true high-end e-reader with a sharp 300ppi screen that produces crisp text and a magnesium build for even more durability. The screen is also flush to the body and covered with etched glass to give it a true paper feel.

▪ **Smart watch**

Are smart watches finally ready for prime time? These handy devices let you keep your phone in your pocket by delivering notifications right to your wrist. That way, you can see who is calling or texting without having to whip out your handset. Most smart watches also let you control music playback on your phone, and some offer fitness

features to help you keep better tabs on your workouts. So which is best? The Pebble Steel has won loads of accolades for being the best on the market, with its sophisticated look, 7 day battery life and huge app Store.

▪ **Fitness Tracker**

Whether you're a fitness fanatic, trying to lose weight, or just want to manage your calories, a fitness tracker will be a winner. The funky looking wrist devices keep track of steps, distance, calories burned and active minutes and displays LED lights to show you how you are doing. There are tonnes on the market but the Basic Peak and FitBit One get our vote.

▪ **Power Bank**

For the gadget lover who has everything there are power banks to keep their 'everything' going, all day every day! Whichever power bank you choose, look out for one that features a 2A input to give you quicker charge.

▪ **Photography Lesson**

Why not buy a voucher from Noodle Photography? We can highly recommend a session with Paul Chapman. He offers tailored one-to-one sessions to brush up on photographic skills, help get the best out of a camera and teach how to use applications like LightRoom. If you are looking to buy a new camera for someone, Noodle can also help you shop and choose the right one! www.noodlephotography.com

▪ **Tekkie Help gift voucher**

If you buy any of these gadgets or another bit of kit, why not give them Tekkie Help to get them up and running with their new toy. Also, an ideal way to help someone you know who is having an IT meltdown. We are offering 15% off on vouchers, so hurry and buy yours now!



THE APP ZONE

A quick review of the apps we are loving at the moment.

HOME BUDGET



We all know cost of living here in Singapore is high. Keep tabs on your spending with this great app.

What it does: It tracks your expenses, income, bills due (and account balances if you wish). It enables you to create different spending categories and allocate a specified budget.

Why we love it: It is an easy way of controlling spending (albeit a little frightening!). You get to see your finances in colorful graphs and charts. You can also sync it with others to get a family budget.

VIVINO WINE SCANNER

Never pick another bad wine with this useful app!



What it does: Take a photo of any wine and get instant ratings, prices and reviews on the wine. You can start to build your own wine record and get recommendations for food pairing.

Why we love it: We've been having fun assessing the Tekkie Help wine collection and have to say, the app is pretty accurate. Will certainly save time and will definitely help you select the best wines for your budget. Cheers!

Apple Family Sharing

A new way to bring harmony to your family's digital life



Family Sharing

Until now, sharing music, movies, photos and other iTunes purchases with your family members has been a huge headache. Apple has finally introduced a way to sync purchases without being forced to share your Apple ID.

To get started, one adult in your household invites all the family members to the group and agrees to pay for iTunes and App Store purchases the group initiate. Once the members are joined the following features are set up automatically.

Share all your purchases

All the songs, movies, apps and books in each family member's library are immediately available to everyone else in the group. The content appears in a separate tab for each member.

Set purchase limits

All new purchases initiated by your family will be billed to the one credit card. You can still control spending though, just turn on 'Ask to Buy' for children in the family. When a child initiates a purchase, an alert is sent to the organiser who can review and approve or decline the purchase.

Create a family photo album

A shared photo album is set up automatically with Family Share. Everyone can then add photos, videos and comments to the album.

Organize your family

Family Sharing creates a family calendar where everyone can view, add or change

an appointment/ event, getting an alert if something changes.

Know where everyone is

You can also share your location with the rest of the family automatically. If you are running late or need to know if your kid made it to school, just use the Find My Friends app.

Track your devices

Finding your family's lost devices is even easier with Family Sharing. Any family member can locate another member's missing device.

For information on how to set up Family Share, check out our blog by clicking [HERE](#), alternatively we can do it for you!

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GiftVouchers

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