



# 2022 Technology Buying Tips

Considerations for leveraging tech “deals” for your organization

***This tip guide is intended to assist in making informed decisions about information technology hardware purchases. It should serve as a companion while reviewing offers during sales periods, such as the “Back to School” and “Black Friday” sales seasons. Recommendations are made to ensure a smooth experience while assuming that systems will be simultaneously running Windows 10/11, Google Workspace or Microsoft Office 365, Zoom/Teams, and 5 web browser tabs, and an email client (Outlook). As you review the sales offers, see how they measure up against the recommendations below. This guide concludes with buying tips for other devices compiled several online sources. The specs for other devices should be similar to the computer minimum recommendations.***

Have questions? Click to - [Schedule a consulting session](#)

## Computer Minimum Recommendations\*

RAM: 8GB

Processor: i5 (8 Gen and up) or AMD Ryzen 5

Hard Drive: SSD (Solid state drive)

Hard Drive Capacity: 128GB

minimum; higher if not synchronizing with cloud storage

OS: Windows 10 Pro or Windows 11 Pro. Please ensure your get p

\* Based on Windows 11

## Processors

Popular processors you may see advertised include Intel’s i3, i5, i7 or AMD Ryzen X (where X is a number). Those are model names. The higher the number in the name, the more capable the processor. In addition to the model’s name, it should have a generation number ex. “i7-6700k”. The generation is important too. Go to Intel’s or AMD’s website for details on the advertised processor.

## RAM

Note 1: 4GB of RAM will likely be a poor experience

Note 2: RAM holds the data for running applications. The more things you have running – the more RAM you will need. “Things running” includes applications and the various tabs and windows of those applications. You may only be running Google Chrome, but if you have 20 tabs open, you are consuming RAM for 20 tabs.

## Ask about support options

- What does the warranty cover?
- Will replacement parts be readily available next year?
- If the system has an issue, is there a support number to call, can the system be conveniently shipped or brought into a store for repair?

## What about software?

Minimum:

- Anti-Virus
- Productivity Suite (Office)
- PDF Reader (Adobe or Foxit)

If you are a Tech Soup subscriber, check there for software deals. You may be able to save or get a premium product for the price.

## Don’t forget the accessories!

- USB-C to HDMI Adapters
- Bluetooth Headphones
- Bluetooth Keyboard
- Power Bank (to charge devices)
- External Hard Drive
- Protective cases / bag
- Web camera

Bonus considerations

- Wall/Desk Monitor Mount
- Tablet Stand
- Wireless Charger



# 2022 Technology Buying Tips

Considerations for leveraging tech “deals” for your organization

## A Note About Business Class Tablets

While still seen as a novelty to many, tablets and phones see considerable use in our field. As such, if your organization is in the market for a tablet, consider devices that are possible replacements for computers. These would be classified as “business class” tablets or “tablets designed for productivity”.

AndroidAuthority.com and TechRadar.com both list the following as high-ranking business class tablets:

- iPad Pro
- Microsoft Surface Pro (6 or 7)
- Samsung Galaxy Tab (6 or 8)
- Lenovo Duet or X1

## Android-based Devices

Android devices come from a variety of manufactures. As such, there is not a single place to get a release schedule. If you are particular to a manufacturer, Samsung for example, then you can research the best time to buy products made by that company. Generally, AndroidAuthority.com suggests best time to buy is:

- Black Friday / Cyber Monday
- Amazon Prime Day (typically June or July)
- Within a month of new product releases

## Apple Products

According to MacRumors.com, Apple generally holds announcement events in:

- March – Spring event
- June – for developers
- September – for iPhone and Apple Watch
- October – for iPads and Mac computers

New York Times “Wirecutter” suggests looking for deals closely to dates before the events. They also recommend visiting [Apple's Certified Refurbished](#) site.

While looking, be sure to check out: [MacRumors's Buyer's Guide](#). This tool gives recommendations on what Apple products to buy or stay away from based on various pieces of information.

## Other Tips

- Pay close attention to the ports the system offers. A lot of new systems only come with USB-C ports. If that is the case, you may need to buy adapters to be able to work with many of your current or future devices.
- If you are considering dual monitors, make sure the system outputs, cable signal type, and monitor inputs are all compatible. Display Port to HDMI and USB-C to HDMI cables can be hit or miss.
- Printers - Consider the cost of ink when looking at printer deals – laser printers typically provide the most affordable print per page
- Printers – Consider printers that allow printing from any device. That is a helpful feature.
- Consider a mouse/keyboard for your home, office, and travel bag. Also consider spare laptop chargers for those locations as well.
- If your organization uses Google Workspace, Chromebooks are worth looking into. See “Tom’s Guide” in the resource links.
- Apple M1 and M2 chips have been getting high reviews since released in Apple products. Performance is typically compared to Intel i5 or i7 processor

## Reference and Resource Links

- [Intel Processor Info Link](#)
- [AVG How Powerful of a computer do you really need](#)
- [Browser RAM comparisons](#)
- [Wirecutter “When’s the best time to buy Apple Gadgets”](#)
- [Tom’s Guide Top Chromebooks 2022](#)
- [TechRadar Top Windows Anti-Virus 2022](#)