Thinking about a new desktop computer

Unless you need mobility, get a tower computer. They are faster, more reliable and easier and faster to repair. Get a standard case not some weird small case if possible so you can use standard parts which are cheaper, more reliable and quicker to replace.

Mass consumer or business quality?

If you buy a quality computer, it will give you 5-7 years of service, so an extra $300 comes out to $50/yr. If it is for your business, don't cheap out. A mass market cheaper consumer computer will probably be 6 or more months old when it is brand new, so there will be lots of Microsoft updates and driver updates that need to be done. Also, there is probably a lot of crapware gumming it up, that will need to be removed. This adds extra costs.

Business computer: Consumer Computer:

How much Ram?

Business users will need 4 GB of ram. Therefore, I suggest getting 8 GB of ram, so you won't have a problem in the future when programs are more demanding. If you have special needs and leave over 20 browser windows open, and many other programs open with multiple windows for each, then you could actually use most of the 8 GB of ram. Specialized gaming machines, or graphics or CAD workstations will need more ram.

4 GB: 8 GB More

How much drive space?

Determine how much hard drive space you currently use. Triple it. Get at least that much. How much is 3 times what you are using?

What kind of drive?

For the last 4 years, most of the computers I've sold have SSD drives. SSD drives are solid state. There are no moving parts. This means that in general they are much faster and more reliable. Using an SSD will give you an enormous performance improvement in addition to their better reliability. You do have to be careful to get a good quality drive. However, there is a tradeoff. They are much more expensive per Gigabyte. So currently an SSD drive will be about twice as expensive for half as much capacity.

If you need less than 512 GB, I strongly recommend SSD. If you need over a Terabyte and are on a tight budget, you'll need a spinning drive. If you budget isn't too tight, you can get an SSD for the system and your programs, and a second spinning drive for your data. If money is not a concern, just get an SSD drive.

Single SSD Dual SSD Mixed SSD & Spinning Just spinning

What CPU?

In general, business users will have a hard time using a quarter of the cpu power available to them, so my general recommendation is to get a good Core I-5 of a current generation of CPU. Normal business users don't need an I-7 and I'm afraid of dropping below the I-5, even if an I-3 is fine, as insurance for the future. Again, gaming machines, or heavy video editing, graphics or CAD could use greater power, but you are much smarter getting an I-5 and an SSD than an I-7, extra ram you won't use and a spinning drive.

Core I-5 (Current Generation) ☐ Other ☐

Other Stuff

	Yes	No
Can you use your current monitors?	☐	☐
Do you need a new keyboard or mouse?	☐	☐

Do you have special needs that are different from a normal business user?

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