

Computer Group  
Arthur Hill – Group Leader



# Welcome

- Admin
  - Fire Alarm and Exits
  - Health & Safety
    - Trip hazards
    - Medical
  - Tables and Chairs – Please put away at the end of the session
- Format
  - 1 Hour presentation
  - Questions
  - One to one Helper sessions
  - Teas/Coffees and biscuits
  - Pack up at 12am sharp

# Buying hardware

- Do you need it?
- What does it have to do – Web, emails, letters, creative, games
- Set your budget
- Desktop, Laptop, Chromebook, Tablet, Printer, Monitor, All in One
- New or not new
- Microsoft or Apple or Other
- Intel or AMD or Apple M4
- Printers – Injet or laser
- Where to buy
- Support

# Where to buy

- Scan Computers - Best general retailer, Excellent support, can insure what you buy. Do whole systems or just components. Use DPD as courier.
- Laptops Direct – Excellent for Laptops, do Open Box and Refurbished
- Chillblast – Good for off the shelf or custom PCs
- PC Specialist – Can do bespoke PCs and Laptops, good web site, Use DPD.
- Dell – Generally bullet proof reliability
- Costco – Fantastic warranty and can have good bargains
- John Lewis – Very helpful and excellent support
- Apple.com – Initially expensive but very good after sales support

# Do you need it?

- Can you upgrade what you already have?
  - Most decent spec PCs can be upgraded to run Windows 11
  - Don't believe what Microsoft tell you!
- Can you repurpose an existing item?
  - Move Windows 10 over to Linux instead
- Is it a vanity project or do you have a real business need?
- Newest software won't run on out of date hardware
- Unsupported operating systems are a security risk

# What does it have to do?

- Are you a:
  - Light user – basic machine, low spec processor, basic memory, basic graphics
  - Moderate user – Medium spec processor, Medium RAM, More disc space, Separate basic graphics card
  - Creative person – High spec processor, Lots of RAM, Lots of disc, High spec graphics
  - Gamer – Even Higher spec processor, Lots of RAM, Moderate disc, Higher spec graphics card
- How much printing do you do?
  - Single sheets
  - Essay
  - Whole book
- How fast?

# Chromebooks – low cost option for most needs

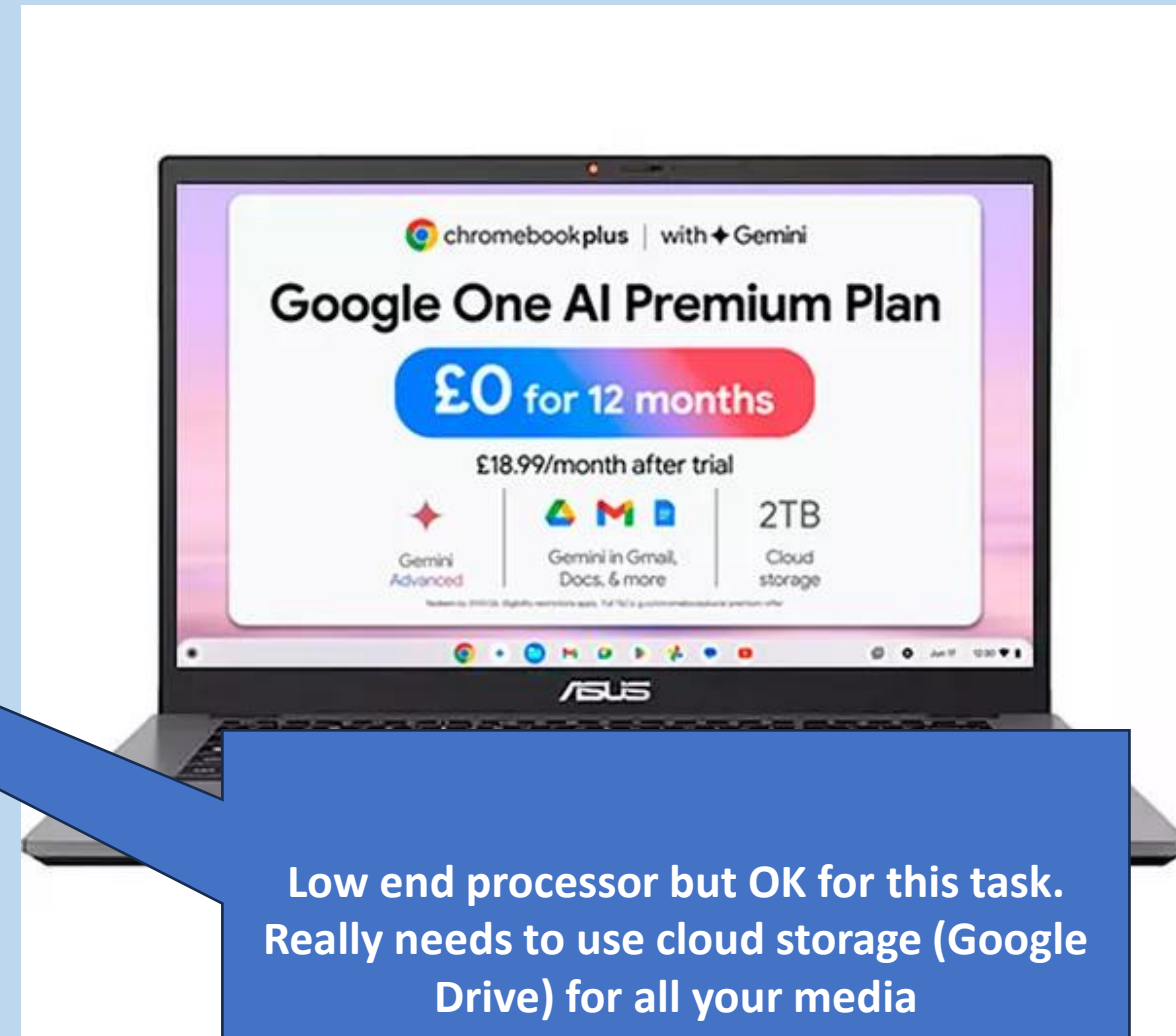
Eg: ASUS CX34 14"  
Chromebook Plus - Intel®  
Core™ i3, 256 GB UFS- £279

## Pros

- Low cost
- Good for Internet browsing
- Social media, Emails
- Generally need to be used with connection to internet

## Cons

- Not suitable to complex use such as video editing
- Need to be used with Google based cloud services



Low end processor but OK for this task.  
Really needs to use cloud storage (Google Drive) for all your media

# Laptops if you need portability.



HP 15-fc0514sa 15.6" Laptop - AMD Ryzen 5, 256 GB, Black

£499.00

Mid range  
512GB is fine. CPU is mid range  
This CPU will give <26hrs battery life  
14" smaller touch screen.  
16Gb RAM – OK for most needs



HP ENVY 17-da0500na 17.3" Laptop - Intel® Core™ Ultra 7, 1 TB SSD, Silver

£1199.00 Save £200.00

Low end laptop  
Doesn't much storage unless using cloud storage.  
CPU is mid range  
Screen size and weight are a trade-off  
Consider what works for you



HP OmniBook X 14" Laptop, Copilot+ PC - Snapdragon X Elite, 512 GB SSD, Silver

£799.00 Save £400.00

high end laptop  
Plenty of storage  
Screen size and weight are a trade-off  
Bigger screen. Check weight .  
<9.5hrs battery life



# Laptops – key considerations

- Consider Screen size if you are working for long durations
- Possibly consider a 2<sup>nd</sup> screen and keyboard. Ergonomically it's bad to work hunched over a laptop on a desk, use a stand and separate keyboard.
- Weight is a trade off to screen size. Do you have to carry it about much?
- Battery life may be important if you are on the move and can't plug into the mains all the time.

# Let's go shopping





# One of the few options to see new tech

- Deal with real people
- Look at real products
- Ask questions



# All-in-one PCs

## Pros

- If the PC will always be sitting on a desk these are a neat solution.
- Single power cable
- Nothing on the floor
- Come with large screen

## Cons

- Unlikely to be user repairable or upgradable.
- If the screen goes, it's a complete replacement





★★★★★ 4.7/5

[327 reviews](#)

ACER Aspire C24-195ES  
24" All-in-One PC -  
Intel® Core™ Ultra 7, 1 TB  
SSD, White

£949.00



★★★★★ 4.2/5

[12 reviews](#)

HP Pavilion 27-cr1006na  
27" All-in-One PC -  
Intel® Core™ Ultra 7, 1 TB  
SSD, White

£999.00



★★★★★ 5/5

[1 reviews](#)

HP OmniStudio X 32-  
c0004na 31.5" All-in-  
One PC - Intel® Core™  
Ultra 7, 1 TB SSD, Silver

£1,749.00



★★★★★ 4.6/5

[39 reviews](#)

ACER Aspire C24-195ES  
23.8" All-in-One PC -  
Intel® Core™ Ultra 5, 512  
GB SSD, White

£599.00  
Save £150.00



★★★★★ 4.6/5

[39 reviews](#)

ACER Aspire C27-195ES  
27" All-in-One PC -  
Intel® Core™ Ultra 5, 1 TB  
SSD, White

£749.00  
Save £130.00



★★★★★ 4.5/5

[2 reviews](#)

HP OmniStudio X 27-  
cs0004na 27" All-in-  
One PC - Intel® Core™  
Ultra 5, 1 TB SSD, Silver

£1,399.00

### Midrange+

Gains expensive  
processor  
But smaller screen

### Midrange

Better screen, better hard  
drive, lower spec processor,  
probably less RAM

### Top model

Gains expensive  
processor  
Biggest screen

### Budget

Lower cost because smaller  
23.8" screen, smaller hard  
drive, lower spec processor,  
probably less RAM

# Don't worry, it's all built in

- Lots of retailers give you choices depending on what you want the equipment to do.
- They sell balanced systems at various price points.
- Several retailers have help lines to help you select the right equipment. Scan are very helpful.
- If you know roughly what you want then web site custom configurators are good. PC Specialist are excellent for this.



# Set your budget

- For new stuff:
  - £200/300 for a Tablet
  - £450/550 for a Chromebook
  - £400/500 for a basic Desktop, Basic Laptop
  - £1000-£1500 for a moderate system
  - £2000-£3000 for a creative system
  - £3000-£5000 for a games system
  - £200-£500 for a monitor
  - £100-£200 for an all in one Injet printer
  - £300 upwards for a Laser printer

# What form factor?

- Tablet
  - Laptop
  - Desktop
- 
- Injet printer or Laser printer
  - Laptop pricing is strange a 15.3" laptop is often cheaper than a 14" or a 13". A 13" laptop is as big as a large Tablet.



# New or not new?

- Always consider “Open box” items from reputable retailers
- Always consider “Refurbished items” from reputable retailers
- Consider second hand from eBay – more risky
- Don’t buy the latest generation, go back one or two generations

# Which tribe?

- Microsoft or Apple, or other eg Linux
- Once chosen, you are basically locked in without spending a lot more money to change.
- With Linux it will run on quite basic hardware and it is free to install.

# Printers

- Pros and Cons
- Ink Jets – generally cheap to buy but can be expensive to run. Good for printing a couple of pages. Can do quite reasonable colour printing these days. Most economic is the Epson Eco Tank ET-2865 (£233), but more expensive to buy initially. Good idea to buy an All-in-One scanner printer that prints double sided. HP Office Jet Pro 9135e (£193)
- Laser printers – Generally more expensive all round but do give you fast printing in volume. Stupidly it is cheaper to buy another printer when the cartridges run out. Around £350 upwards.

# Monitors

- Often forgotten piece of your set up
- You want the biggest that you have space for, or even two
- Typical prices £200 upwards. Expect £500 for a good one
- Eg 32" Iiyama ProLite XUB3293UHSN-B5 - £429
- 4K is better image quality.
- Response time is important if you are a gamer
- Great colour coverage important if you are a photographer

# Support

- What do you do when the PC doesn't work
- Mixed picture in the PC world
- Currys PC World is not necessarily the best, but you can talk to them
- Try U3A, we might know the answer.
- Scan are excellent, especially if you insured your purchase
- John Lewis will help if you take it back
- Costco – No question replacement
- There is a computer repair man in Basingstoke, but I have no experience. Computer shops will repair all makes. Chineham Repair Café a possible
- Apple are renowned for their support, good local shop

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- Thank you
- The end