

# Laptop Checklist

## CPU

The CPU is the brains of your computer. It is one of the significant factors that determines overall speed of a system. Prices typically increase with family number.

- i3 (not recommended since we believe they are unpowered for office applications)
- i5
- i7

## RAM

RAM is the working memory of your computer. This is where the programs and documents reside while they are being accessed by the CPU and other system components. Next to CPU, this is the next significant factor that affects overall performance of your laptop. Prices go up with the amount of RAM installed.

- 4GB (minimum)
- 8GB (recommended)

## Hard Drive

The total amount of storage capacity of your laptop is determined by hard drive space. There are currently two major technologies that are available for hard drives. One, signified by HDD below, will give you larger capacity at a lower cost. The other, signified by SSD below, will give you much better performance but typically at a higher cost and at lower capacities.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 500GB HDD        | <input type="checkbox"/> 128GB SSD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1TB (1000GB) HDD | <input type="checkbox"/> 256GB SSD |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> 512GB SSD |

## Optical Drive

DVD-RW or Blu-Ray drive. They will both usually allow you to make DVDs as well as CDs from your laptop. A Blu-Ray drive will drive up the cost of the laptop but allow you to watch high definition movies. Most ultra-portables do not include optical drives to keep weight down but they can be bought as an external, add-on accessory.

- None
- DVD-RW
- Blu-Ray

## Screen Size

Screen will determine weight and price. Typically, smaller screens are associate with ultra-portables and are more expensive for an adequately powered (CPU + RAM + Hard Drive). Larger screens can be more cost effective but also add to the weight of the laptop.

- < 13"
- 13" < 15.6"
- > 15.6"

## Weight

If you plan on traveling with your laptop, you should consider getting a lighter laptop. However, if you plan to leave your laptop in one place for several weeks at a time then going with a weightier laptop could save a little bit on the cost. Please note that screen size may have an impact on weight.

- < 3lbs
- 3lbs < 5lbs
- >5lbs