

BUYER'S **guide**

Affordable Desktops

With the prices of computer components seeming to drop daily, you can get a good computer within a standard education budget. We've compiled a few of the many in the \$500–\$700 range to help you get an idea of the components you can expect in a budget desktop.

These computers would be great for the average computer lab or cluster. And some, with their integrated memory card readers and generous on-board video memory allotments, would even be suitable for art, year-book, and newspaper classes.

All the computers we include here have built-in sound, video, and networking capability, and a few include CRT monitors. The machines that don't include monitors are reasonably priced enough to allow you to purchase a monitor and stay near the \$700 ceiling. Of course, if you are upgrading, you may just want to keep your old monitors.

Most of these vendors allow you to customize your computer, so the addition of, for example, a DVD+/-RW drive in place of a DVD-ROM will affect the price only slightly. You can also get discounts when ordering speakers, monitors, and wireless networking adapters. This makes it easy to ensure that you have the best computer for your needs at the best price. It also allows you to work with the vendor that has been selected for your school, district, or state.

Manufacturer	URL	Model	Processor Type	Clock Speed
Apple	http://www.apple.com	Mac Mini	Core Solo	1.5 GHz
Cisnet	http://www.cisnetpc.com	CI33-B83 C66	Athlon 64	2.2 GHz
Compaq	http://www.compaq.com	Presario Media Center SR1750NX	Athlon 64	2.2 GHz
CyberPower	http://www.cyberpowerpc.com	AMD Athlon 64 PCI-E Build	Athlon 64	2.2 GHz
Dell	http://www.dell.com	Dimension 1100	Celeron D	2.53 GHz
eMachines	http://www.emachines.com	T-6420	Athlon 64	2.2 GHz
Gateway	http://www.gateway.com	E-1500D	Celeron D	2.66 GHz
HP	http://www.hp.com	a1310y	Pentium 4	2.9 GHz
Lenovo	http://www.lenovo.com	3000 J105	Sempron	1.8 GHz
Systemax	http://www.systemaxpc.com	Venture B517	Pentium 4	2.93 GHz

** Information not available at press time.

Installed RAM	Hard Drive Size	Optical Drive(s)	Card Reader	Monitor	Form Factor	Operating System	Video Card	Audio Output	Networking	Modem	Price
512 MB	60 GB	DVD-ROM/ CD-RW combo	None	None	Mini desktop	Mac OS X	Integrated	Integrated High Def	Integrated, AirPort ready	None	\$677
512 MB	160 GB	DVD+/-RW	Smart Media, MultiMedia Card, Secure Digital (SD), Compact Flash, Micro Drive, Memory Stick and Memory Stick Pro	None	Tower	Windows XP Home	Integrated, 64MB	**	Integrated 10/100 adapter	56K	\$500
1 GB	200 GB	DVD+/-RW	Smart Media, xD, MultiMedia Card, Secure Digital (SD), Compact Flash, Micro Drive, Memory Stick and Memory Stick Pro	None	Tower	Windows XP Media Center	Integrated, 256 MB shared memory	Integrated	Integrated 10/100 adapter	56K	\$549.99
512 MB	80 GB	DVD-ROM/ CD-RW combo	None	None	Tower	None	NVIDIA Geforce 6200, 256 MB	Integrated	Integrated 10/100 adapter	None	\$529
256 MB	80 GB	CD-RW	None	17" CRT	Tower	Windows XP Pro	Integrated	Integrated	Integrated 10/100 adapter	56K	\$608
1 GB	200 GB	DVD+/-RW	Smart Media, MultiMedia Card, Secure Digital (SD), Compact Flash, Micro Drive, Memory Stick and Memory Stick Pro	None	Tower	Windows XP Media Center	NVIDIA Geforce 6100, up to 128 MB shared memory	Integrated High Def	Integrated 10/100 adapter	56k	\$549
256 MB	40 GB	CD-ROM	None	None	Tower	Windows XP Pro	Integrated, up to 128 MB shared memory	Integrated High Def	Integrated 10/100 adapter	None	\$599
512 MB	40 GB	DVD-ROM	Smart Media, xD, MultiMedia Card, Secure Digital (SD), Compact Flash, Micro Drive, Memory Stick and Memory Stick Pro	17" CRT	Tower	Windows XP Pro	Integrated	Integrated High Def	**	None	\$529.99
512 MB	80 GB	CD-ROM, 3.5"	None	None	Tower	Windows XP Pro	Integrated, 64 MB	Integrated	Integrated 10/100 adapter	None	\$641
512 MB	80 GB	CD-ROM	None	17" CRT	Tower	Windows XP Pro	Integrated	Integrated	Integrated 10/100 adapter	None	\$609.97