

## SUGGESTED COMPUTER SPECIFICATIONS

Updated February 2012

Note: desktops are more powerful and reliable than laptops.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Consider</u>
CPU:	Dual core <u>64-bit*</u> AMD or Intel, 3 Ghz or faster (less for laptops)	i5 or i7 (quad core), 3.2 Ghz or faster
RAM:	6 GB*	8 GB+; more for large applications like video editing*
Hard disk:	250 GB SATA, 7200 RPM	500GB+. Consider 2 hard drives for fast full-system backup.**
Monitor:	17"-19" 1024x768 flat panel	20"+, 1600x1200 or higher; consider <u>two</u>
Graphics card:	64 MB video RAM (dynamic or shared OK)	256 MB or more; consider dual-monitor card
Card reader (SD, etc.):	Optional	Multi-type card reader
Mouse:	Optical mouse	Wireless mouse
Multimedia:	DVD +/-RW drive (also does CD RW)	Blu-ray (which also does CDs and DVDs) plus tuner and remote for hi-def TV functions
Network/Modem:	10/100 Ethernet via DSL, cable modem, etc.	Gigabit network card
Backup:	Use flash drive for data; full system backup is optional	External hard drive or 2nd internal hard drive
Ports:	2+ USB 2.0 on front and 4+ on back; make sure front ports are conveniently located	One or more USB <u>3.0</u> ports in addition to 2.0; some monitors come with ports
Printer:	Dual-cartridge color inkjet or multifunction (w/ scanner/fax)	4+cartridges; laser for high volume; network printer for easy sharing
Warranty:	30-day money back; 1 year on site	3 years or longer on site; consider accident protection, esp. for laptops
Software:	64-bit* Windows 7 Home Premium; Microsoft Office, Corel (WordPerfect) Office, or the <u>free</u> OpenOffice.org; Symantec, McAfee, or free Anti-Virus	64-bit* Windows 7 Professional or Ultimate. MacOS for Apple lovers. Linux for Microsoft haters. Add "XP mode" for older applications that won't run under Windows 7.
Other:	Surge suppressor	Uninterruptable power supply; scanner (if printer doesn't have one)
Approximate cost:	\$500-\$1,000 plus printer	\$1,000-\$3,000+ plus printer

\*To benefit from 64-bit performance, the computer, operating system, and software must all be 64-bit. Only then is it possible to effectively utilize more than 4GB of RAM.

\*\*Beware of two hard drives configured as "Raid 0". While very fast, the system will fail if either drive fails.