

The Age-Old Debate: PC vs. Mac

Anyone who has ever looked at buying a computer knows everyone will have a different opinion on which computer to get; a PC or a Mac. There has always been a big debate over whether PCs or Macs are better, so having experience both should help to evaluate both types of computers.

MAC

Everybody likes Apple computers because they are shiny, sleek and appealing to look at. This may have something to do with the expensive price tag, but many people are willing to overlook this since Apple is still the brand to have in the IT world. Given the price of Apple devices you would also expect a good amount of storage, especially given they target their products at people who generally want to store a lot of photos or videos. My Macbook Pro cost \$2500 and only had 200GB of storage, a measly amount quickly used up with documents, games, photos and videos, to the point where I had to store a lot of my other data on an external hard drive. Not as a backup, as actual storage. People want to own Macbooks and iMacs because other people own them, not necessarily because they are great computers. They definitely have their advantages though. Not have to deal with virus protection is pretty great, and if you have other Apple devices like an iPhone or iPad they all sync up nicely. Macs are also well known for being the computer of choice for people of the artistic persuasion, as the screen resolution and processing power allows artists, videographers and photographers to work efficiently and effectively with high performance programs such as Photoshop. The major downside that any programmer or computer engineer will tell you is the fact that you cannot program a Mac. If you have a problem, you have to take it to the Apple store to get it fixed. You can't rely on your brothers programming knowledge to know how to fix it. If you want to tweak something in the software to better suit your personal preferences; too bad, you can't.

PC

Now PCs are certainly not perfect. I spent about 3 days with Microsoft customer services when Windows 10 decided it wanted to stop working properly on my desktop, which was not particularly how I wanted to spend my weekend. But there is a lot more flexibility when using a PC, and the price tag is decidedly more reasonable. My current PC, which replaced my Macbook, cost around \$1500 including the monitor, and has 3TB of storage. The value for money with a PC is a

big advantage. Of course there are some computers at the more expensive end that cater to those wishing for a more aesthetically appealing design, such as Alienware, but at least you have the choice to spend or not to spend based on design. PCs are not as pretty as Apple devices; most desktops are boring and black. But that's because PCs aren't relying on aesthetics to win over customers. They are definitely more complicated to set up and maintain, but you'll reap the rewards by having more control over your computer and the ability to do your own programming. And because they are so flexible there are a lot more programs and devices you can use with your computer. Virus protection is definitely more important, which is a pain when it costs money that doesn't seem to have any effect until someone tries to hack your computer or a virus destroys all of your data. Then it comes in handy. Another advantage is the fact that you can run Windows on smaller devices as well as your desktop. A tablet like the Surface Pro can run the actual Windows software rather than a special version designed for tablets and phones that Apple uses. You can install programs on it and treat it basically like a smaller, portable version of your desktop that you can sync all of your documents with through OneDrive. It's simple, efficient and handy if you like to do work on the go.

Everybody has different needs, so it is nice to know there are different types of computers out there to suit these needs. Some people swear by Apple; others have been PC users their entire lives. There's no reason really to discriminate though. There are pros and cons to both computers. It all depends on what product suits your requirements the best.