## BYOD General Hardware FAQ



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Some general questions our IT Techs are asked about laptop/computer hardware:

CPU - CPU (central processing unit), the 'brains' of your device. Come in 2 main brands Intel or AMD.

Intel CPUs come in several levels of performance.

- **Celeron, Pentium** Entry level CPUs, these are suitable for basic computer use e.g. web browsing, word processing, basic tasks etc.
- **Core i3, i5** Mid to mid-high level CPUs these are suitable for slightly more intensive computer use, e.g. low-mid level movie editing/CAD/medium scale photo manipulation etc.
- **Core i7** High end CPUs, these are suitable for high end computer use, e.g. intensive movie editing/CAD/large scale photo manipulation etc.

AMD CPUs come in several levels of performance.

- AMD A6, A8, A10 Entry level CPUs, these are suitable for basic computer use, e.g. web browsing, word processing, basic tasks etc.
- **AMD Ryzen 3, 5** Mid to mid-high level CPUs these are suitable for slightly more intensive computer use, e.g. low-mid level movie editing/CAD/medium scale photo manipulation etc.
- **AMD Ryzen 7** High end CPUs, these are suitable for high end computer use, e.g. intensive movie editing/CAD/large scale photo manipulation etc.

**RAM/Memory** - RAM, or random access memory, is the temporary storage used by programs when they're running. Generally, 4GB (gigabytes) of RAM is considered the starting point for a laptop or desktop computer, but these days 8GB is becoming more common.

Tablets and other mobile devices may use much less if they're running on mobile operating systems such as Android or iOS. For laptops, more memory may be useful for programs that can make use of larger amounts or memory, e.g. photo/video manipulation programs. The more RAM the more programs can be run at the same time.

**Storage/Hard drive** – Storage comes in 2 main types, Hard Disk Drive (HDD) and Solid State Drive (SSD). HDDs are cheaper and come in larger storage capacity, these days you will see 500GB to 1000GB or 1TB (terabyte) on laptops with HDDs. SSDs cost more and do not have as large storage capacities, you will see 64GB, 128GB, 256GB SSDs as the norm in laptops with SSDs.

SSD is the fastest kind of drive, unlike a HDD it has no moving parts. It is sometimes referred to as Flash Storage. The trade-off for greatly increased speed (up to 4 times the speed), is lower capacity, and a higher price. HDD is the traditional style storage drive, with moving parts and larger but slower and cheaper storage capacity.