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Nowadays you should never be spending more than \$300 on a personal desktop computer unless you have some very strong arguments! Nevertheless should you? Here are some tips for obtaining a very good deal--without getting shorted and squeezed!

When you are in the market for buying a computer, being incredibly strict on your budget is tricky. Budget PCs are a wonderful solution for people that just don't want to spend too much on upgrading their in home tech. Industry veterans like Dell, Gateway, and Hewlett-Packard all provide affordable and not so affordable options for you. However if you want best bang for the buck, pick up a used computer which is preferably under 2 years old.

At the very minimum, you should expect your used computer investment to last two years. And when it comes to picking one out, make sure you check 3 critical things. The processor being the first! Make sure that it is at least Intel Core 2 Duo or better. The Second and Third thing to make sure the computer has is DDR2 Memory & SATA HDD Connectors. Because if any of those parts break down a fix is super easy and cost effective. Make sure you also get at least a 90 day warranty when it comes to picking out a computer for yourself, because if there is something critically wrong with the computer chances are it's going to happen within 30 days.

If your dead set on buying new, you have to be very careful when picking out the cheapest computers. The cheap computers are often built with cheap components which have a tendency to break or snap after extended periods of use. When it comes to buying a computer you have to "Think boring and boxy." The easier it looks to open, the easier it will be in the future to do some kind of repair without breaking the thing to get it open! Stay away from the ultra small computers which are no bigger than a laptop, because if there is something in there that fails, opening it will be a pain! By sticking to boring and boxy, you know that opening it is a cinch and all the components are easily replaceable. Also stay away from computers which have power connectors that are very similar to the kind laptops use, cause if it breaks...!

The only time you as a computer user would even notice the difference between a \$500 PC and a \$1500 PC is if you were some kind of designer or engineer. But if you're the everyday kind of person who doesn't do anything "fancy", then getting a supercomputer would not be much of a difference to you than a \$300 computer.

I hope this guide has been somewhat informative to you, and if there's one thing you could take away from all this is that you have an open mind to the used computer market. A quick EBay search for "Core 2 Duo Desktop" should yield a multitude of affordable results; one of which could be your next computer! Give it a shot, don't be scared, and try it out. You'd be surprised at the prices you'll find on Ebay, and this is much through the cutthroat nature of the business of sales itself. People will always chase towards the lowest price, no matter where it comes from, at the expense of quality. But this is computers we're talking about here, and they all use the same critical components, just arranged a little differently.

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[Vinod Jethwani](#) - About Author:

Our senior editor for USA computer store he always tries to find out the best and latest new things in technology and which is very beneficial to his team and passion. Currently he is busy at a [laptop repair Fort Lauderdale](#) and a [laptop repair Broward](#).

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