



COMPUTER BUYING ASSIGNMENT

Shelby Elise Simmons

SLIS 706 – BILLINSKY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA - COLUMBIA
COMPUTER PURCHASING ASSIGNMENT – PC COMPUTER RUNNING WINDOWS 8

Computer Buying Assignment

1 SCENARIO

Mira Smith is a young professional with several devices for accessing the internet and accessing social media including a Kindle Fire tablet, a MP3 Player, and an iPad and laptop provided by her office. Ms. Smith has acquired a second position recording and editing video at home and a hobby of playing computer games.

Ms. Smith has been having difficulty running her video editing and game software on her laptop and is noticing greatly reduced multitasking capabilities. According to the software she purchased she needs a dedicated video card and at least a Intel Core 2 Duo 1.8 GHz or AMD Athlon X2 64 2.0 GHz for optimal performance, she does not have the appropriate video card, but her laptop does meet the processor requirement. Because Ms. Smith has regular access to high speed wired and wireless connections to the internet via her home network, she has invested in digital music, videos, streaming video and television, and a cloud printer, however she also has DVDs, CDs, flash drives and external hard drives that she uses on a regular basis. Ms. Smith has a large high definition television that she would like to use as a monitor at least some of the time. It has an HDMI and VGA connection. Because Ms. Smith has a wide variety of portable devices, she would like a desktop computer for her new home office that has a large amount of storage for her data as all of her current devices have less than 160 GB of storage. Her devices are all compatible with Windows 8 and she would like to upgrade her operating system.



Ms. Smith wishes to purchase a desktop personal computer running Windows 8 operating system that exceeds the minimum requirements for her games and video editing software, and is designed to run multiple programs at once. She would like to be able to access all of her media via USB 2.0 or 3.0 ports and read and write DVDs of her movies. Although she does see this new computer as an investment, she would like to spend less than \$1200 for the computer, monitor, and any peripherals, she has a credit limit of \$2000 at Best Buy or Wal-Mart that she will be using to purchase the devices; if Ms. Smith chooses a device that is not sold at Wal-Mart or Best Buy she will be limited to \$1000 cash. Ms. Smith does not have a preference for any brand, color, or size of device.

2 SELECTED DEVICE

Ms. Smith selected the Gateway DX4870-UB2B (UB2B) desktop computer, available from Best Buy for \$429.99. According to Domingo (2013a), an analyst and reviewer for PC Magazine, the Gateway UB2B is “a great choice for the budget-minded PC buyer who wants to replace that old desktop, but still needs the traditional large screen, keyboard, and mouse of a PC. It's not anything flashy, but it's a great buy, and likely will last you another five years before you need to replace it,” (p. 3). This device meets several of Ms. Smith requirements, it has more RAM (6 GB vs. 3GB or less) and storage (1 TB vs. 160 GB) than her current devices, is within budget (less than \$500), is available from a preferred seller (Best Buy), has USB 2.0 and 3.0 ports, HDMI output, and both wired and wireless networking capabilities.

Ms. Smith considered several other computers based on reviews from professionals at PC Magazine, eCoustics, and CNET after finding several top ten lists, including one from

Westover and Regaza (2013) at PC Magazine which included the device she finally chose and some of her top picks. Ms. Smith compared the Dell Inspiron One 23, the Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23, and the Dell Precision T1700 SFF. Ms. Smith chose the UB2B over other devices for several reasons, first looking at the pros and cons of each device and finally prioritizing price, storage, operating system, USB ports, and compatibility with work requirements including the ability to read and write DVDs, connect to a television, and run editing software. The purchased device has a SATA HDD not ATA as listed in some specifications and Ms. Smith will use her existing speakers, printer, and webcam.

Ms. Smith had no preference for brand, touch screen, form factor, or monitor, in fact she has a television she would like to be able to use as a monitor so the Dell Inspiron One 23 did not have an advantage as an all-in-one or as a Dell and the price range of \$700 to \$1400 found online at Dell and Amazon, or the \$999 to \$1199 found in the CNET review exceeded her preferred budget (Brown, 2013, p. 2). The device does feature the Windows 8 operating system, and a HDMI input that will work with her television. Ultimately the device suffers due to faint praise, "You can say that the Dell is a fairly priced midrange Windows 8 all-in-one, but that's about it," (Brown, 2013, p.3).

The Dell T1700 SFF, rated as excellent by Domingo (2013c) of PC Magazine, also nears the \$1000 mark in price, but is a better reviewed device and included the high quality CPU and graphics card that Ms. Smith was looking for along with a total of ten USB ports, "Two of the USB ports are 2.0, the other two are 3.0, which mean you can hook up slower peripherals like mice to the USB 2.0 ports, and speedy hard drives to the USB 3.0 ports" (Domingo, 2013c, p.2).

The T1700 SFF has excellent specifications, in fact, it is a little bit too much machine for Ms. Smith and is upgradable beyond her current ambitions.

The Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23 is another well-reviewed all-in-one computer, again the all-in-one design is not an inherent preference or benefit to Ms. Smith. Due to design, many all-in-one devices have fewer ports than the tower systems, however the UR23 has USB 2.0 and 3.0 ports on the side and rear of the device along with a front-facing camera. Domingo at PC Magazine sums up the device, “The Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23 is a very good media consumption device. It looks nice, has well-thought out features, and has a nice price tag. If you need a moderately large screen to view online videos in a bedroom or a dorm room, this is your system” (Domingo, 2013b, p.3).

3 PC – SPECIFICATIONS: GATEWAY DX4870-UB2B

Manufacturer & Model	Gateway
CPU - Model & Speed	Intel i3-3240 Dual Core 3.4GHz
RAM - Amount & Type	6GB DDR3 SDRAM
Cache - Amount & Type	3MB
Graphics - Amount & Type	INTEL HD (2500)
Sound	High-definition with 5.1-channel surround sound support
Speakers	User already owns, none come with device
Network Access - Wired (Ethernet)	Built-in 10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet LAN (RJ-45 connector)
Network Access - Wireless (Wi-Fi)	Built-in 802.11a/b/g/n wireless LAN

Other Wireless Capabilities	N/A
Hard Drive - Size, Type, Speed	1 TB SATA (5400 rpm)
Solid State Drive - Size & Type	N/A
Optical Drive - Type, Speeds	double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW 8x DVD+R DL; 8x DVD-R DL; 16x8x16 DVD+RW; 16x6x16 DVD-RW; 5x DVDRAM; 48x32x40 CD-RW
Other Drives	digital media card reader
Bays (For Desktops Quantity & Types)	Not listed, 1 visible
Expansion Slots (Quantity & Types) Not common on laptops	1 PCI Express x16, 2 PCI Express x1
Media/Memory Card Readers (for things like cards from digital cameras)	digital media card reader: xD-Picture Card Secure Digital (SD) Card, MultiMediaCard (MMC), memory Stick PRO, Memory Stick, MMCplus
Ports (Quantity & Types)	2 USB 3.0 (rear); 6 USB 2.0 (2 front, 4 rear), HDMI, VGA, Audio In/Out
Monitor / Screen - type, size, features	N/A, owner has TV
Webcam	N/A
Microphone	N/A
Operating System	Windows 8
Bundled Software	N/A
Optional Software	N/A
Purchase Place	Best Buy
Cost:	429.00
Base Computer	429.99
Upgrades & Add-ons	0.00
Software	0.00
TOTAL	429.99

Specifications found on Gateway and Best Buy websites and listed in citations.

Works Cited

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- Brown, R. (2013, January). Dell's steady, most predictable all-in-one. Retrieved from http://reviews.cnet.com/desktops/dell-inspiron-one-23/4505-3118_7-35493284.html
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- Westover, B. and Regaza, L. A. (2013, October). The 10 best desktops. Retrieved from <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2372609,00.asp>

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Gateway DX4870-UB2B

 EDITOR RATING: **EXCELLENT** [COMMENTS](#)

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PROS

Good performance in class.
 Internal expansion room. 6GB memory, 1TB hard drive. Dual band 802.11 a/b/g/n networking. HDMI.

CONS

Smallish PSU. Not tool-less for upgrades. Bloatware. Front USB ports are USB 2.0.

BOTTOM LINE

The Gateway DX4870-UB2B gives its users what they expect: the latest technology and decent power in an inexpensive desktop PC. It's what we currently recommend for general purpose computing.

The Gateway DX4870-UB2B (\$499.99 list) is a basic tower desktop PC that checks all the boxes on what you need from a new desktop, **particularly if you already have a LCD display**



BY JOEL SANTO DOMINGO that you're carrying over. It's speedy for its segment, has capacious storage, will let your family keep many documents open simultaneously, and it's relatively inexpensive. Unlike the \$300 bargain basement specials, the DX4870-UB2B **\$529.99 at Amazon** comes with a modern Intel Core i3 processor, dual-band Wi-Fi, and lots of drive space. It's expandable, so it can grow with your family. It's not ground breaking, but it's a solid choice with a great bang for the buck, so it's our latest Editors' Choice for budget desktop PCs.

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Design and Features

The DX4870-UB2B follows other Gateway desktops, looking almost identical to the last black tower [Gateway DX4870-UB17](#) \$499.99 at Amazon (\$500). Like that model, the DX4870-UB2B comes in a tower chassis with black panels all around, including the plastic front panel and metal side panels. The system's tray-loading DVD burner is hidden, but two of the system's USB 2.0 ports, SD card reader, and audio jacks are exposed on the top front of the chassis. In the back, the system has four more USB 2.0 ports, two USB 3.0 ports, PS/2 mouse and keyboard ports, HDMI, VGA, Ethernet, more audio jacks, and two connectors for the included WiFi antennas. It would have been nice if the front USB ports were USB 3.0 to accommodate USB hard drives instead of the slower USB 2.0.



VIEW ALL 6 PHOTOS IN GALLERY

The inside of the system is certainly expandable, with plenty of space to move around for future upgrades. The system has space for two additional drives: one optical 5.25-inch bay and one 3.5-inch hard drive bay. Theoretically, you could shoehorn another three to four 2.5-inch notebook class drives in the same space, provided you have the correct brackets to hold the drives. The motherboard has four free SATA ports to service these drives. The system also has two DIMM slots free, along with a slot for a PCIe 3.0 x16 graphics card and two additional PCIe 2.0 x1 expansion cards. One PCIe x1 slot is occupied by the included 802.11a/b/g/n Wi-Fi card, which will serve most users well. This is an improvement over other budget systems like the [Lenovo IdeaCentre Q190](#) (\$400) and [Zotac Zbox ID83 Plus](#) \$403.08 at Amazon (\$473), both of which don't support 5GHz Wi-Fi, only the more common and crowded 2.4GHz channels.

The last consideration you have to make for expandability is the system's 300W power supply. While sufficient for additional drives and minor expansion cards, 300W will be insufficient for a high-powered discrete graphics card with Nvidia's or AMD's highest end GPUs. You can of course swap out the included power supply, but most budget system buyers never open their chassis, even if they are tempted by the system's expandability. Bring a screwdriver if you dare, because you'll need it for the case door and the drive bays. At least the internal card slots are tool-less.

Like other Gateway systems, the DX4870-UB2B comes with quite a few pre-loaded applications and utilities. These include 7digital, Zinio, Kindle, eBay, Chacha, Netflix, NewsXpresso, Amazon, Tunein, Hulu Plus, Xbox Games, Cut The Rope, Stumbleupon, Skype, Merriam-Webster, Britannica, Spotify, Microsoft Office (ad), Norton Internet Security), and Wild Tange games. That's a lot of pre-loaded apps, and most if not all are available for free from Microsoft Windows Store. While you may want to spend a few moments uninstalling all these programs, fret not, since the system has a capacious 1TB hard drive with plenty of free space left. The DX4870-UB2B comes with a standard one-year warranty.

Performance

The system comes with a third-generation Intel Core i3-3240 processor, 6GB of DDR3 memory, Intel HD Graphics 2500 (integrated in the Core i3 processor), and a 1TB 5,400rpm SATA hard drive. All of these components mean the system is plenty fast on our benchmark tests, certainly faster than the Lenovo Q190 and the Zbox ID83 Plus. That said, there are systems in this price range that are faster, notably the [Polywell Nano i3-Q7](#) (\$595) which trades physical and storage space for SSD speed, and the [Acer Aspire AT3-600-UR11](#) (\$600), which has a discrete graphics card and slightly more powerful processor adding to its performance totals. Check the performance chart link to see the final numbers, but suffice to say the DX4870-UB2B has the performance to keep your family happy for the next five years or so.



Performance Tests

▲ High scores are best ▼ Low scores are best Model type denotes first place. Anti-virus/Anti-malware: Bitdefender 10/10/2011	Processor	Graphics chipset	Handbrake ▼ min:sec	Photoshop ▼ CS6 min:sec
Gateway DX4870-UB2B	Intel Core i3-3240 (3.4GHz)	Intel HD Graphics 2500	1:07	5:29
Gateway DX4870-UB17	Intel Core i3-3220 (3.3GHz)	Intel HD Graphics 2500	1:30	5:07
Gateway SX2380-UR318	AMD A6-5400K (3.6GHz)	AMD Radeon HD 7540D	2:25	7:26
Polywell Nano i3-Q7	Intel Core i3-3217u (1.8GHz)	Intel HD Graphics 4000	0:45	7:54
Acer Aspire AT3-600-UR11	Intel Core i5-3330 (3.0GHz)	2GB Nvidia GeForce GT630	0:45	3:57
Zotac Zbox ID83 Plus	Intel Core i3-3102M (2.5GHz)	Intel HD Graphics 4000	1:26	6:39
Lenovo IdeaCentre Q190	Intel Celeron 887 (1.5GHz)	Intel Integrated HD Graphics	3:00	12:19
RED denotes Editors' Choice. N/A—Not applicable: The product could not complete the test, or the test was not compatible.				

The Gateway DX4870-UB2B is a **great choice for the budget-minded PC buyer who wants to replace that old desktop, but still needs the traditional large screen, keyboard, and mouse of a PC.** It's not anything flashy, but it's a great buy, and likely will last you another five years before you need to replace it, something that can't be said if you decide to go with a cheaper tablet or laptop. This mix of components (and the changing of the seasons) lets the DX4870-UB2B inherit the budget desktop Editors' Choice from the previous Gateway DX4870-UB17.

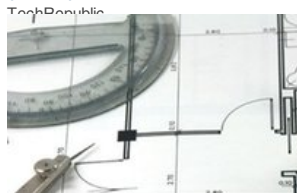
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BY JOEL SANTO DOMINGO

LEAD ANALYST

Joel Santo Domingo is the Lead Analyst for the Desktops team at PC Magazine Labs. He joined PC Magazine in 2000, after 7 years of IT work for companies large and small. His background includes...

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Model: DX4870-UB2B | SKU: 8982153 | Customer Rating: 4.4 (29 customer reviews)

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Specifications

Specifications		
Specs:	Details:	Description:
Warranty Terms - Parts	1 year limited	
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Height	14.9 inches	
Width	7.1 inches	
Depth	15.8 inches	
Weight	23 pounds	
Processor Brand	Intel®	
Processor	Intel® 3rd Generation Core™ i3	(Also known as the <i>CPU</i>). The part of the computer that interprets and executes instructions. Think of it as the brain of the computer.
Processor Speed	3.4GHz	How fast a computer processor carries out instructions. In general, faster is better, but processor speeds across brands may not be equivalent (i.e., a 3.0GHz AMD processor may not be the same speed as a 3.0GHz Intel processor).
Cache Memory	3MB	A small segment of memory that stores frequently used information for fast access by the processor, improving response time.
System Memory (RAM)	6GB	The memory a computer uses to run its operating system, applications and active data files. Greater amounts of RAM improve speed and enable more applications to run at once.
System Memory (RAM) Expandable To	32GB	Maximum amount of memory a computer can support (as opposed to the amount that comes preinstalled).
Type of Memory (RAM)	DDR3	
Hard Drive Type	SATA (5400 rpm)	Hard drives are classified based on the interface they use to connect to a computer. Common interfaces for <i>internal</i> hard drives include EIDE, PATA (also known as, ATA and IDE), SATA and SCSI. Common interfaces for <i>external</i> hard drives include USB 2.0, FireWire and eSATA.
Hard Drive Size	1TB	Capacity for storing programs, photos, video, music and other electronic information. Hard drive capacities range from a few gigabytes to several hundred.
Graphics	Intel® HD	Type of graphics (video) adapter (usually built into the motherboard), identified by manufacturer and model.
Video Memory	Shared	Manages display functions, including screen refresh rates,

resolution and color. The more video memory a computer has, the better graphics and video will look.

Audio	High-definition with 5.1-channel surround sound support	
Speakers	None	
Network Card	Built-in 10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet LAN (RJ-45 connector)	Allows a computer to connect to a network either by using cables (Ethernet) or wireless technology (IEEE 802.11).
Wireless Networking	Built-in 802.11a/b/g/n wireless LAN	
Recordable DVD Drive	Yes, double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	Drive that can read CDs and DVDs, as well as write and rewrite CDs and various types of DVDs.
Recordable DVD Drive Speeds	8x DVD+R DL; 8x DVD-R DL; 16x8x16 DVD+RW; 16x6x16 DVD-RW; 5x DVD-RAM; 48x32x40 CD-RW	Maximum write (DVD±R), rewrite (DVD±RW) and read (DVD-ROM) speeds of the DVD±RW drive.
Direct-Disc Labeling	No	
Digital Media Reader or Slots	Yes, digital media card reader	
Available Expansion Slots	1 PCI Express x16, 2 PCI Express x1	<p>For digital cameras and digital audio players: Slots that allow the addition of a removable memory card, such as Secure Digital or CompactFlash, to increase storage capacity.</p> <p>For computers: Slots on the motherboard that accept sound cards, video cards, memory and other upgrade cards.</p>
USB 2.0 Ports	2 USB 3.0 (rear); 6 USB 2.0 (2 front, 4 rear)	Ports that allow high-speed (up to 480 Mbps) data transfer between compatible devices.
Keyboard Description	USB multimedia	Indicates design, functionality or connection features. Some keyboards offer special buttons for gaming or multimedia use, while other keyboards include features such as illumination or wireless connectivity.
Other Control Devices (mouse, etc.)	Optical mouse	
Operating System Platform	Windows	
Operating System	Windows 8	The master software that controls hardware functions and provides a platform on top of which any software applications will run. Commonly used systems include Microsoft Windows and Mac OS X for computers and Palm OS and Microsoft Windows Mobile for PDAs.
ENERGY STAR Certified	No	ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.
Best Buy PC App	No	
HDMI Output	Yes	
Blu-ray Player	No	
Graphics Chip	Intel	
Drive Capacity	1TB	
UPC	887899119446	

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Name	Apple iMac 27-Inch (Late 2012)	Dell Precision T1700 SFF	Apple iMac 27-inch (Intel Core i5-4670)	Dell Optiplex 9010 AIO	Gateway DX4870-UB2B	Gateway SX2380-UR318	Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23	Dell XPS 18	HP Z420	SamsungATIV One 7 (DP700A3D-A01US)
Editor Rating										
Lowest Price	\$1,749.99 B&H Photo-Video	\$989.00 Dell Small Business	\$1,794.00 Amazon	\$1,155.30 Dell Small Business	\$529.99 Amazon	\$389.99 Amazon	\$919.92 Amazon	\$1,349.99 Dell	Best Price Amazon	\$1,099.00 Microsoft Store
Type	Gaming, Mainstream, Multimedia, All-in-one	Workstation	All-in-one	Business, All-in-one	Mainstream, Value	Mainstream, Value	All-in-one, Digital Entertainment System, Touchscreen All-In-One	Mainstream, All-in-one, Touchscreen All-In-One	Workstation, Business, Small Business	All-in-one, Touchscreen All-In-One
Processor Name		Intel Xeon E3-1225 v3	Intel Core i5-4670		Intel Core i3-3240	AMD A6-5400K	Intel Core i5-3337U	Intel Core i5-3337U	Intel Xeon E5-1620	Intel Core i5-3470T
Processor Speed	3.4 GHz	3.2 GHz	3.4 GHz	3.1 GHz	3.4 GHz	3.6 GHz	1.8 GHz	1.8 GHz	3.6 GHz	2.9 GHz
RAM	8 GB	8 GB	8 GB	8 GB	6 GB	6 GB	8 GB	8 GB	16 GB	6 GB
Storage Capacity (as Tested)	1128 GB	500 GB	1128 GB	128 GB	1000 GB	1000 GB	1000 GB	500 + 32 GB	1250 GB	1000 GB
Graphics Card	Nvidia GeForce GTX 680X	Nvidia Quadro K600	Nvidia GeForce GTX 775M	Intel HD Graphics 4000	Intel HD Graphics 2500	AMD Radeon HD 7540D		Intel HD Graphics 4000		Intel HD Graphics 2500
Primary Optical Drive	External	DVD+R DL		DVD+-RW (Plus Minus)	Dual-Layer DVD+-RW	Dual-Layer DVD+-RW			Dual-Layer DVD+-RW	Dual-Layer DVD+-RW
Monitor Type	LCD Widescreen		LED Widescreen	LCD Widescreen			LCD Widescreen	LCD Widescreen		LCD Widescreen
Touchscreen			No	Yes			Yes	Yes		Yes
Screen Size	27 inches		27 inches	23 inches			23 inches	18.4 inches		23.6 inches
	Read the Review	Read the Review	Read the Review	Read the Review	Read the Review	Read the Review	Read the Review	Read the Review	Read the Review	Read the Review

By [Brian Westover](#), [Laarni Almendrala Ragaza](#)

October 9, 2013



Don't write off the desktop PC just yet—the workhorse of the PC world still has a place. The desktop continues to evolve with stunning new designs, extremely affordable prices, and a range of uses that extends far beyond the home office. Whether you're looking for a standard tower PC or a sleek All-in-One, we've got you covered. Whether you're looking for a crazy fast gaming rig or a computer for streaming movies and TV shows, you'll find something here.

The standard desktop tower still reigns as the basic

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PC, ranging from smaller budget-priced systems to powerful towers that can double as workstations or gaming rigs. You'll get a lot of performance and plenty of features even at budget prices, but perhaps the biggest draw for desktop buyers is the fact that, unlike slim laptops that won't even let you swap the battery, the tower still allows the user to maintain and upgrade their system. Even the simple tasks of upgrading RAM or swapping out an old hard drive with a newer, faster solid-state drive will extend the life of a PC for months, or even years.

The PC is making headway in the living room, as well, with home theater PCs (HTPC) gaining ground. These PCs connect easily to an HDTV and tout smaller, sleeker designs that will fit into a home theater set-up without looking too out of place. Whether it's a tiny HTPC for streaming Netflix movies to your TV, or a heavy duty gaming PC that blends in next to stereo equipment, the desktop PC has moved from the office to the den, and the trend looks to continue in future months.


But the biggest shift in the desktop PC is the move from tower-based designs to all-in-one systems which pack the PC components into the chassis or base of the monitor. The result is less cluttered, with fewer cables and without the tower providing extra space stealing bulk on your desk. Since the release of Windows 8, the all-in-one shift has added touch to the mix, providing large screens that can be tapped, swiped, and poked for a more intuitive navigation experience.

But with so many different options, which should you choose? We've sifted through the dozens of desktops on the market and selected the ten choicest systems to pick from.

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FEATURED IN THIS ROUNDUP



Apple iMac 27-Inch (Late 2012)

★★★★★ EC

\$2,668 list

\$1,749.99 at B&H Photo-Video

The Apple iMac 27-inch (Late 2012) all-in-one PC is the pinnacle of desktop design and manufacturing. It's not perfect, or cheap, but it's worth every penny. [Read the full review >>](#)



Dell Precision T1700 SFF

★★★★★ EC

\$994 list

\$989.00 at Dell Small Business

For under \$1,000, you can get an ISV-compliant workstation that comes with an Intel Xeon CPU and Nvidia Quadro graphics. For the money, this is the single-processor workstation that you should be procuring for scientific/engineering management and your graphics arts folk. [Read the full review >>](#)



Apple iMac 27-inch (Intel Core i5-4670)

★★★★★ EC

\$1,999 list

\$1,794.00 at Amazon

Though it's mainly a speed bump, the inclusion of the latest 4th-generation Intel Core i5 quad-core processor and Nvidia GeForce GTX 775M Kepler graphics bump the Apple iMac 27-inch (Intel Core i5-4670) back to the top spot on our high-end all-in-one desktop list. [Read the full review >>](#)



Dell Optiplex 9010 AIO

●●●●○ **EG**

\$2,592.00 list

\$1,155.30 at Dell Small Business

The Dell Optiplex 9010 All-in-One desktop brings Windows 8 and touch capability to offices large and small. [Read the full review >>](#)



Gateway DX4870-UB2B

●●●●○ **EG**

\$499.99 list

\$529.99 at Amazon

The Gateway DX4870-UB2B gives its users what they expect: the latest technology and decent power in an inexpensive desktop PC. It's what we currently recommend for general-purpose computing. [Read the full review >>](#)



Gateway SX2380-UR318

●●●●○ **EG**

\$489.99 list

\$389.99 at Amazon

If you're looking to spend under \$500, but still expect a laundry list of features in a new PC to replace that old clunker in your den, then the Gateway SX2380-UR318 will give you just about all you need in a new Windows 8 desktop. [Read the full review >>](#)



Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23

●●●●○

\$999 list

\$919.92 at Amazon

The Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23 has a lot of intelligent features we'd like to see on most if not all all-in-one desktop PCs in the future. [Read the full review >>](#)



Dell XPS 18

●●●●○

\$1399.99 list

\$1,349.99 at Dell

The Dell XPS 18 fulfills a niche somewhere between a large screen ultrabook and a dedicated all-in-one desktop PC. It mostly works, though the market for such a product is still in its beginning stages. [Read the full review >>](#)



HP Z420

●●●●○

\$2,768 list

Best Price at Amazon

The HP Z420 is a powerful, expandable workstation. It combines the power of a quad-core Intel Xeon processor with an Nvidia Quadro graphics to give you a powerhouse system that can grow along with your company. [Read the full review >>](#)



Samsung Series 7 (DP700A3D-A01US)



\$1,099 list

\$1,099.00 at Microsoft Store

The Samsung Series 7 (DP700A3D-A01US) all-in-one desktop has a very good bang for the buck, and includes a lot of features we'd say are must-haves in a new midrange all-in-one desktop with Windows 8. [Read the full review >>](#)

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Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23

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PROS

Front-mounted I/O ports. 10-point touch screen. HDMI-in. Spacious hard drive.

CONS

No Blu-ray. Some added software/bloatware. Wonky gesture control.

BOTTOM LINE

The Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23 has a lot of intelligent features we'd like to see on most if not all all-in-one desktop PCs in the future.

BY JOEL SANTO DOMINGO The Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23 [\\$919.92 at Amazon](#) (\$999.99 list) is a refined, yet simple version of the all-in-one [desktop](#) PC that has evolved over the past few years. It has most of the features we look for in a modern all-in-one PC, including a

moderate price. It's a more than competent media consumption system, though media creators like videographer and photographers may want to look elsewhere.

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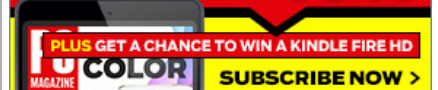
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Design and Features

The Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23 bucks the aluminum and glass trend by being built out of

www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2423552,00.asp



black polycarbonate instead. That said, it's no slouch in the design department. While not flashy, the all-in-one chassis of the AZ3-605-UR23 is attractive and looks a little more purposeful than a plain monitor. It's built into an easel and stand design, where a tilting back leg governs the tilt of the screen. It doesn't have height adjustment, but very few all-in-one systems have that feature these days (a notable, expensive exception is the Editors' Choice for high end all-in-one desktops, the [Dell XPS 27 Touch All-in-One \(2720\)](#)). The front is notable for having conveniently placed I/O ports that don't look out of place. The front left of the system has a convenient USB 3.0 port, headset jack, and SD card reader on a "capsule" built into the front speaker grille. This is way more convenient than having the ports on the back of the system (like on the midrange all-in-one Editors' Choice [Apple iMac 21.5-Inch \(Late 2012\)](#) \$1,199.00 at B&H Photo-Video (\$1,299) or on the side, like on the [Dell XPS 18](#) \$1,349.99 at Dell (\$1,399).



VIEW ALL 7 PHOTOS IN GALLERY

This is one of the systems you should consider if you still have a large active optical disc collection. You can view your DVD movies and listen/rip your CDs using the built-in tray loading DVD burner. The system doesn't support Blu-ray, but that's only a problem if you're an Blu-ray fanatic who has already amassed a 1080p movie collection. Speaking of movies, online streaming movies look very good on the AZ3-605-UR23's 23-inch, 1,920 by 1,080 resolution (Full 1080p HD) display with a capacitive 10-point touch. The 10-point touch is important, as it will allow you to either use both hands on the screen, or share the touch screen with a person sitting next to you. Contrast this with the infrared 5-point touch screen on the competition like the HP Pavilion TouchSmart 23-F260XT AIO (\$999).

In addition to the front I/O ports, the AZ3-605-UR23 has two USB 2.0 ports in the back along with audio, Ethernet, HDMI-in and another USB 3.0 port. The HDMI-in port is useful if you want to play a console game on the same screen as your PC. It can also accommodate a future laptop or desktop PC, extending the display's life past when the system's Intel Core i5-3337U processor is obsolete. The system comes with a 1TB 7,200rpm SATA hard drive, which is slower yet many GB more spacious than the solid-state drives (SSDs) found in some recent systems. For a media consumption device, the tradeoff is welcome.

The front-facing camera can be used with an included gesture control system. However, like the ones we've seen on Lenovo IdeaCentre desktops, Acer's gesture control system is just a bit too annoying to use full time. Waving your arms in front of you can get tiring, and there is still a bit of lag between you moving a limb and the cursor following on the screen. We're not at the point where we can emulate the UI in the movie *Minority Report*, at least not yet.

The AZ3-605-UR23 does have quite a few pre-loaded apps, including 7digital, didlr, Kindle, eBay, Zinio, Netflix, iCookbook, Amazon, Tuneinradio, Chacha, Hulu Plus, Wild Tangent Games, Xbox Games, Stumbleupon, Skype, NewsXpresso, Spotify, McAfee Internet Security, and an ad for Microsoft Office. These are cumbersome if you don't use them, but they are moderately easy to remove. The AZ3-605-UR23 comes with a one-year warranty.

Performance

The AZ3-605-UR23 comes with an Intel Core i5-3337U processor, 8GB of system memory, Intel HD Graphics 4000, and a 1TB hard drive. Together, they provide the user with decent, but undistinguished performance. The system is certainly enough for the media consumer in your family, with enough speed to display 1080p HD content smoothly on the bright, clear screen. However, if you are planning on creating videos or editing photos, make sure you keep in mind that is isn't a powerhouse system. If you want multimedia performance, going with the EC-winning Apple iMac 21.5-inch is a better bet.



Performance Tests

<div>▲ High scores are best.</div> <div>▼ Low scores are best.</div> <div>Bold type denotes first place.</div> <div>Anti-aliasing/Anisotropic Filtering ▶ 10/16/2011</div>	Processor	Graphics chipset	Handbrake ▼ min:sec	Photoshop ▼ CS5 min:sec
Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23	1.8GHz Intel Core i5-3337U	Intel HD Graphics 4000	2:00	9:16
Vizio 24-inch Touch All-in-One (CA24T-B0)	AMD A10-4600M (2.3GHz)	AMD Radeon HD 8750A	1:44	8:01
Asus ET2701INKI-B046C	Intel Core i7-3770s (3.1GHz)	Nvidia GeForce GT 640M	N/A	2:51
Vizio 24-inch All-in-One (CA24T-A4)	Intel Core i5-3210 (2.5GHz)	Intel HD Graphics 4000	1:13	4:45
Acer Aspire A5600U-UB13	Intel Core i5-3230M (2.6GHz)	Intel HD Graphics 4000	1:47	6:23
Samsung Series 7 (DP700A3D-A01US)	Intel Core i5-3470T (2.9GHz)	Intel HD Graphics 2500	1:06	4:43
RED denotes Editors' Choice. N/A—Not applicable: The product could not complete the test, or the test was not compatible.				

The Acer Aspire AZ3-605-UR23 is a very good media consumption device. It looks nice, has well-thought out features, and has a nice price tag. If you need a moderately large screen to view online videos in a bedroom or a dorm room, this is your system. However, on a price, feature, and performance summation the Apple iMac 21.5-inch holds on to its Editors' Choice award for midrange all-in-one desktops.

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BY JOEL SANTO DOMINGO

LEAD ANALYST

Joel Santo Domingo is the Lead Analyst for the Desktops team at PC Magazine Labs. He joined PC Magazine in 2000, after 7 years of IT work for companies large and small. His background includes...

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CNET Reviews

Dell Inspiron One 2330 review:

Dell's steady, mostly predictable all-in-one

CNET Editors' Rating

3.5

Fairly good

\$999.99

[[http://www.cnet.com/desktops/dell-inspiron-one-23/4014-3118_7-35493284.html?](http://www.cnet.com/desktops/dell-inspiron-one-23/4014-3118_7-35493284.html?orderBy=totalPrice#onlineStores)

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Review Date: 1/31/13

Average User Rating

0.0

[http://www.cnet.com/desktops/dell-inspiron-one-23/4505-3118_7-35493284.html]

The good: The **Dell Inspiron One 2330** has a reasonably attractive design, and a surprisingly broad selection of video and audio connectivity options.

The bad: Aside from the AV inputs and its not-unattractive looks, nothing about this mainstream PC really stands out.

The bottom line: Dell's workmanlike Inspiron One 2330 won't change your life, but it will meet all of your basic mainstream desktop needs while also providing a few useful extras.



Editors' Top Picks



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Similar to the Toshiba LX835 [http://www.cnet.com/toshiba-lx835-d3380-core/4505-3118_7-35540896.html] I reviewed last week, the Dell's Inspiron One 2330 offers a mainstream entry point for PC buyers interested in Windows 8. Unlike the Toshiba system and its higher-end silicon, this Dell is almost entirely pedestrian in terms of its core features.

A handsome design and a collection of less common audio-video ports give this otherwise unremarkable PC some identity. A comparatively low \$1,199 price tag puts the Inspiron One 2330 on the most accessible tier of 23-inch touch-screen all-in-ones. For those with light-duty performance needs interested in a basic Windows 8 desktop, the Dell fits the bill well enough, and with some potentially useful connectivity options.

The design of Dell's all-in-one systems is consistent across its XPS and Inspiron lines. It's a polished and beefy aesthetic, like that of a more expensive SUV. You will also notice that Dell has not embraced the push by Apple

[http://www.cnet.com/apple-imac-21-5/4505-3118_7-35547822.html],



Lenovo, and [Vizio \[http://www.cnet.com/vizio-ca24t-a4-all/4505-3118-7-35492128.html\]](http://www.cnet.com/vizio-ca24t-a4-all/4505-3118-7-35492128.html) toward thinner all-in-one displays. This system, 30mm thick at the edge of its display, might look clunky next to all-in-ones like the new iMacs, which come in at just 5mm thick at the same point.

And while the Inspiron One 23 looks like a smaller version of the [27-inch XPS One 27 \[http://www.cnet.com/dell-xps-one-27/4505-3118-7-35485706.html\]](http://www.cnet.com/dell-xps-one-27/4505-3118-7-35485706.html), it has a key design difference. Where the XPS One has a double-hinged display stand that lets you tilt the screen 60 degrees and adjust its height, the Inspiron 2330 has only a single hinge that gives you about 40 degrees of tilt. It's not unreasonable for Dell to swap in a cheaper stand to help keep the price down, just be ready to prop the Inspiron 2330 up on a book or two if you aren't happy with the height of its screen.

The Inspiron's touch screen is responsive to 10-point input, but it also feels draggier than the XPS One 27. The feel is not unlike that of the Toshiba LX835, which is to say that the Inspiron 2330 has a serviceable touch screen, but your inputs won't feel as smooth as they do on the average smartphone or tablet.

	Dell Inspiron One 2330	Vizio CA24T-A4	Asus ET2300INTI
Price	\$1,199	\$1,249	\$1,299
Display size/resolution	23-inch, 1,920x1,080 touch screen	24-inch, 1,920x1,080 touch screen	23-inch, 1,920x1,080 touch screen
CPU	2.5GHz Intel Core i5 3330S	2.5GHz Intel Core i5 3210M	3.0GHz Intel Core i5 3330
Memory	8GB 1,600MHz DDR3 SDRAM	6GB 1,333MHz DDR3 SDRAM	8GB 1,333MHz DDR3 SDRAM
Graphics	32MB Intel HD Graphics 2500	32MB Intel HD Graphics 4000	1GB Nvidia GeForce GT630M
Hard drives	1TB, 7,200rpm	1TB, 5,400rpm	1TB, 7,200rpm
Optical drive	dual-layer DVD burner	None	dual-layer DVD burner
Networking	Gigabit Ethernet, 802.11b/g/n wireless	Gigabit Ethernet, 802.11b/g/n wireless	Gigabit Ethernet, 802.11b/g/n wireless
Operating system	Windows 8 (64-bit)	Windows 8 (64-bit)	Windows 8 (64-bit)

A side-by-side comparison with two other Windows PCs in its price range gives the Dell very little to set it apart. It looks like a better deal than the Vizio CA24T-A4, boasting more system memory and a full-speed, 7,200rpm hard drive instead of the Vizio's slower 5,400rpm drive, but the spec sheet offers nothing you'd call unique or remarkable. You can say that the Dell is a fairly priced midrange Windows 8 all-in-one, but that's about it.

Marginally more interesting are the Dell's audio video inputs. It has an **HDMI input, expected in any \$1,000-plus all-in-one. It also has a pair of old-school VGA jacks**, one in, another out (handy for connecting old monitors, or using the Dell as a monitor with an older PC), as well as a full set of composite audio and video inputs, and separate digital audio outputs, one 3.5mm, the other an optical S/PDIF output. This is an uncommonly broad array of connectivity options for a PC in this price range, and it gives the Inspiron One 2330 some great flexibility in terms of how it might be used with other devices.

Adobe Photoshop CS5 image-processing test (in seconds)

(Shorter bars indicate better performance)

[Toshiba LX835-D3380 \(2.4Ghz Core i7, November 2012\)](http://www.cnet.com/desktops/toshiba-lx835-d3380-core/4505-3118-7-35540896.html)
[http://www.cnet.com/desktops/toshiba-lx835-d3380-core/4505-3118-7-35540896.html]

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[Vizio CA24T-A4 \(2.5GHz Core i5, November 2012\)](http://www.cnet.com/desktops/vizio-ca24t-a4-all/4505-3118-7-35492128.html)
[http://www.cnet.com/desktops/vizio-ca24t-a4-all/4505-3118-7-35492128.html]

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[Asus ET2300INTI \(3.0GHz Core i5, November 2012\)](http://www.cnet.com/desktops/asus-et2300inti-all-in/4505-3118-7-35524246.html)
[http://www.cnet.com/desktops/asus-et2300inti-all-in/4505-3118-7-35524246.html]

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[Apple iMac 21.5-inch \(2.7Ghz
Core i5, November 2012\)
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imac-21-5/4505-3118_7-
35547822.html\]](http://www.cnet.com/desktops/apple-imac-21-5/4505-3118_7-35547822.html)

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**Dell Inspiron One 2330 (2.7Ghz
Core i5, November 2012)**

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Apple iTunes encoding test (in seconds)

(Shorter bars indicate better performance)

[Apple iMac 21.5-inch \(2.7Ghz
Core i5, November 2012\)
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imac-21-5/4505-3118_7-
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[Toshiba LX835-D3380 \(2.4Ghz
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**Dell Inspiron One 2330 (2.7Ghz
Core i5, November 2012)**

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[Vizio CA24T-A4 \(2.5Ghz Core i5,
November 2012\)
\[http://www.cnet.com/desktops/vizio-
ca24t-a4-all/4505-3118_7-
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Dell XPS One 27 (Windows 8) [http://www.cnet.com/desktops/dell-xps-one-27/4505-3118_7-35485706.html]

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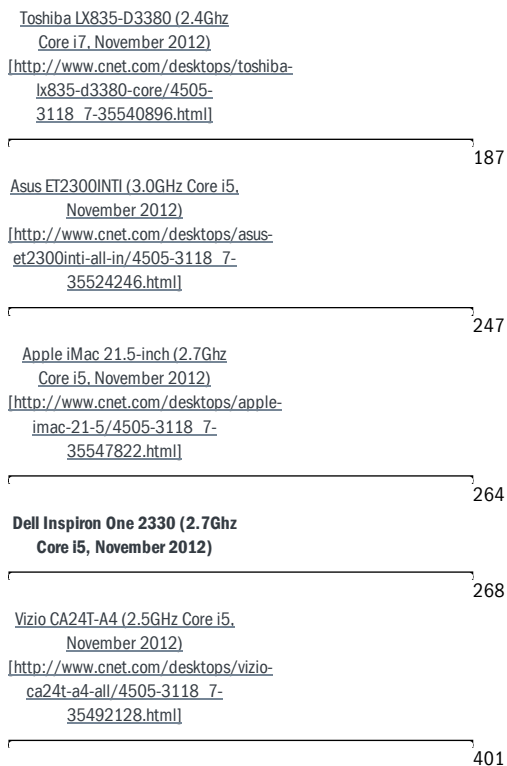


Dell Inspiron One 2330 review:

Dell's steady, mostly predictable all-in-one

Multimedia multitasking (in seconds) -- iTunes and Handbrake

(Shorter bars indicate better performance)



Cinebench 11.5

(Longer bars indicate better performance)

Rendering Multiple CPUs Rendering Single CPU



On our performance tests, the Dell lands exactly where I expected, coming in at or near



the middle of a pack of similar, but generally more expensive competitors. None of the systems in this chart are suitable for serious, performance-oriented computing, but all of them will do for day-to-day Web browsing, nongaming media consumption, and other standard consumer-level PC tasks. The weak Intel HD Graphics 2500 3D core prevents the Inspiron One 2330 from playing all but the most forgiving games, but it should be able to handle most if not all of the titles you'll find on the Windows 8 App Store.

Dell has built a few other useful features into the Inspiron One 2330. Like the XPS One 27, a small dial on the top of the display lets you adjust the angle of the built-in Webcam. The display also has a set of buttons that lets you cycle through the active video signal via an intuitive onscreen menu.

The only real complaint I have about the system is that it sounds like there's a sock jammed in the speakers. Audio output comes out feeling muffled and underpowered, even after you tweak the various software effects.

Conclusion

Despite various efforts to reinvigorate the PC category, the Dell Inspiron One 2330 provides yet another data point indicating that commodity PCs will continue to make up a healthy portion of the market. There's nothing wrong with this fact. Sometimes all you need is a hammer, and all you ask is that that hammer comes at a reasonable price. This system is that hammer, and Dell has priced it accordingly. Even with Windows 8, this system won't change your computing life. But **it will at least meet our basic expectations of a contemporary desktop.**

Performance testing conducted by Joseph Kaminski. Find out more about how we **test desktop systems**. [<http://www.cnet.com/how-we-test/desktops/>]

System configurations

Apple iMac 21.5-inch (November 2012) [http://www.cnet.com/apple-imac-21-5/4505-3118_7-35547822.html]

Apple OS X Mountain Lion 10.8; 2.7GHz Intel Core i5-3330S; 8GB 1,600MHz DDR3 SDRAM; 512MB Nvidia GeForce GT 640M graphics card; 1TB 5,400rpm hard drive

Asus ET2300INTI [http://www.cnet.com/asus-et2300inti-all-in/4505-3118_7-35524246.html]

Microsoft Windows 8 (64-bit); 3GHz Intel Core i5-3330; 8GB 1,333MHz DDR3 SDRAM; 1GB Nvidia GeForce GT 630M graphics card; 1TB 7,200rpm hard drive

Dell Inspiron One 2330

Microsoft Windows 8 (64-bit); 2.5GHz Intel Core i5-3330S; 8GB 1,600MHz DDR3 SDRAM; 32MB Intel HD Graphics 2500 (embedded); 1TB 7,200rpm hard drive

Toshiba LX835-D3380 [http://www.cnet.com/toshiba-lx835-d3380-core/4505-3118_7-35540896.html]

Microsoft Windows 8 (64-bit); 2.4GHz Intel Core i7-3630QM; 8GB 1,600MHz DDR3 SDRAM; 2GB Nvidia GeForce GT 630M graphics card; 2TB 5,400rpm hard drive

Vizio CA24T-A4 [http://www.cnet.com/vizio-ca24t-a4-all/4505-3118_7-35492128.html]

Microsoft Windows 8 (64-bit); 2.5GHz Intel Core i5-3210M; 6GB 1,600MHz DDR3 SDRAM; 32MB Intel HD Graphics 4000 (embedded); 1TB 5,400rpm hard drive

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MSRP:

\$1,199.00

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Dell Precision T1700 SFF

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REVIEW

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PROS

Workstation that's priced like a high-end desktop PC. Xeon and Quadro power. Four USB 3.0 ports (2 front, 2 back). ISV certified graphics. Under \$1,000. Easy to open and service. Compact SFF chassis.

CONS

Limited internal expansion space.

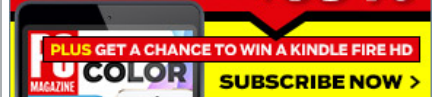
BOTTOM LINE

For under \$1,000, you can get an ISV-compliant workstation that comes with an Intel Xeon CPU and Nvidia Quadro graphics. For the money, this is the single-processor workstation that you should be procuring for scientific/engineering management and your graphics arts folk.



BY JOEL SANTO DOMINGO The Dell Precision T1700 SFF (\$994 direct) has the looks and the price of a generic business desktop PC, and that's its hook. It is really a full professional-grade workstation with one of the latest Intel Xeon quad-core processors and Nvidia Quadro graphics. It's a good fit for the graphics artist or engineering/scientific/medical manager that doesn't necessarily need the highest levels of performance. Rather, it's a perfect fit for the supervisor that needs to sign off on work, while using an ISV-certified system with the same data sets and applications that the engineers or scientists use. It has a great performance and features for the price. All this makes it our newest Editors' Choice for single-processor workstations.

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\$989.00	\$1,554.83	\$1,226.58
Dell Small Business	Amazon	Amazon
		\$1,699.00
		Lenovo

Design and Features

The T1700 \$989.00 at Dell Small Business is a standard looking SFF desktop, and that's the point. It won't garner envious looks in your organization, since it looks so much like any other desktop on your co-workers' desks. From the exterior, you'd never know that the system is equipped with a quad-core Intel Xeon E3-1225 v3 processor and Nvidia Quadro K600 graphics card. The front panel is vertically oriented, with a tray-loading DVD drive to the left and a column of four USB ports right down the middle of the front panel. Two of the USB ports are 2.0, the other two are 3.0, which mean you can hook up slower peripherals like mice to the USB 2.0 ports, and speedy hard drives to the USB 3.0 ports. A pair of audio ports round out the features on the front panel.



VIEW ALL 8 PHOTOS IN GALLERY

On the back, the system has four more USB 2.0 ports, two more USB 3.0 ports, PS/2 ports for keyboard and mouse, Ethernet, audio, and a serial port. The system has three DisplayPorts (two on the motherboard and one on the Quadro K600 card), VGA, and a DVI port. The DisplayPorts on the motherboard are inactive while the Quadro K600 is installed, so you're limited to two monitors connected to the Quadro K600 card.

The interior is cramped, yet filled to the brim with technology. In addition to the Intel Xeon E3-1225 v3 processor and Nvidia Quadro K600 card, you'll find 8GB of DDR3 ECC memory (up to 32GB total supported with two free slots), a fairly standard 500GB, 7,200rpm SATA hard drive, and that's about it. The T1700 has a 255W power supply for all the internal components. The system has a PCIe x4 half height slot open for other expansion cards and a free SATA port on the motherboard, but if you need internal expansion you'd be better off with a system in a minitower chassis. USB 3.0 external expansion works well for hard drives, but the system lacks the eSATA or FireWire ports that you'd need to connect older drives. If your organization still uses these legacy drives you can of course add a PCIe adapter card later.

The T1700 comes with very few software packages pre-loaded, it's pretty much just Windows 7 Professional and a couple Dell utilities including Dell Precision Performance Optimizer, a utility that automatically tweaks system settings for many ISV certified programs including programs like Autodesk Maya and Dassault Systems' SolidWorks. Of course, this is how you want it configured, since extraneous programs have no place on a professional workstation that may be used to create plans for a client's project. The pricing of the system configured above includes a three-year warranty.

Performance

The Intel Xeon E3-1225 v3 processor and Nvidia Quadro K600 graphics are very close to the configuration on our Editors' Choice [HP Z230 SFF Workstation](#) \$1,554.83 at Amazon (\$2,045). In fact, the main difference is that the Xeon E3-1245 v3 in the HP Z230 is clocked just a smidge faster (3.4GHz vs 3.2GHz). The Z230 also has some other performance enhancing features like a SSD boot drive and RAID 0 data storage. The SSD in particular helps the HP Z230 speed past the T1700 in tests like the day-to-day PCMark7 test, where the HP has a 2,000 point advantage over the T1700.



Performance Tests

▲ High scores are best
▼ Low scores are best
Bold type denotes first place
Last testing/revision: May 10/10/2011

	Processor	Graphics chipset	Handbrake ▼ min:sec	Photoshop ▼ CS6 min:sec
Dell Precision T1700 SFF	Intel Xeon E3-1225 v3 (3.2GHz)	1GB Nvidia Quadro K600	0:32	3:20
HP Z230 SFF Workstation	Intel Xeon E3-1245 (3.4GHz)	Nvidia Quadro K600	0:30	3:05
HP Z220 CMT Workstation	Intel Xeon E3-1270v2 (3.5GHz)	Nvidia Quadro 2000	1:05	N/A
Lenovo ThinkStation C30	Intel Xeon E5-2620 (2.0GHz) (x2)	Nvidia Quadro 5000	1:45	4:17
Velocity Micro ProMagix HD180Max	Intel Core i7-3930k (3.2GHz)	2GB Nvidia Quadro 4000	1:06	N/A
HP Z1 Workstation	Intel Xeon E3-1280 (3.5GHz)	2GB Nvidia Quadro 4000M	1:09	N/A
Dell Precision T1600	Intel Xeon E3-1270 (3.4GHz)	1GB Nvidia Quadro 2000	1:13	N/A

Editors' Choice denotes Editors' Choice. N/A — Not applicable: The product could not complete the test, or the test was not compatible.

The T1700's predecessor, the EC-winning [Dell Precision T1600](#) \$1,226.58 at Amazon (\$2,185) and even the dual-socket [Lenovo ThinkStation C30](#) \$1,699.00 at Lenovo (\$3,483.95) both lag behind the HP Z230 on that test. However, on other tests, like the multimedia Handbrake test (0:32 for T1700, 0:30 for the HP Z230) and Adobe Photoshop CS6 test (3:20 for the T1700, 3:05 for the HP Z230) the Precision T1700 only lags behind the HP Z230 by a few seconds. The multimedia tests are affected much less by the speed of the Z230's SSD. And since both the HP Z230 and the T1700 have the same graphics cards, they have almost identical 3D performance on our benchmark tests.

When you get to this point of the review, we have to ask ourselves, is this system better than what we've seen lately? And the answer is an unequivocal yes. The Dell Precision T1700 has performance similar to the former Editors' Choice HP Z230 on all our benchmark tests save one, and after all, performance is why you buy a workstation over a vanilla business desktop PC in the first place. The Z230 is (slightly) more expandable than the T1700 due to a larger chassis. But if what you need to do is work on graphics arts projects or share data files and related programs with the engineers that do the real work in your company, then the T1700 is a better choice on account of its sub-\$1,000 price tag. Therefore, on a bang-for-the-buck basis, we award the Dell Precision T1700 SFF our Editors' Choice award for single-processor workstations.

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LEAD ANALYST

Joel Santo Domingo is the Lead Analyst for the Desktops team at PC Magazine Labs. He joined PC Magazine in 2000, after 7 years of IT work for companies large and small. His background includes...

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