

# Which Mac Should I Buy?

A few thoughts - Jim Pernal

# Introduction:

- We've had a few questions in the email group on this one, and I recently got asked about this from a friend trying to advise a neighbor on this question.
- It's a hard question to answer without understanding the needs of the person asking.
  - Sometimes they don't know what they want.
  - They will need to do some research and evaluate their needs
- A similar question would be what vehicle should I buy? A person living in a large retirement community with private streets may only need a golf cart. A small compact car is not ideal for towing a 8500 pound horse trailer from LA to Bakersfield weekly over the grapevine. A two seater sports car will not do for a driver, two volunteers and 12 children that need to go on Summer day trips. A rusty beater car that does run and drive and is being sold for \$500 may be to expensive for some. In 2018, a **Ferrari 250 GTO in silver blue** became the most expensive vehicle ever sold at \$70.2 million. A rich individual said he wish he knew about it, would have reached into his back pocket and paid even more to get it.

# Budget:

- This is something to work out.
  - Macs do last a while. However don't overpay for a older Mac that will lose support and lose the ability to upgrade to the latest Mac OS.
- New/ Refurbished/ Used
  - Your budget may determine which to buy
  - New. Apple has Military/Veteran and Student discounts
  - Refurbs. <https://www.apple.com/shop/refurbished> Come with a one year warranty.
  - Used May places to buy, private and companies. Use the Mactracker App to look up specifications. (DEMO) <https://mactracker.ca>

# Type of Mac:

- LAPTOP/ALL IN ONE/DESKTOP
  - Laptop: If you need your mac to go. Larger external monitors can be added.
  - All in One: The iMac. Now down to 24 inch only models. Perhaps a return to a larger one, but as time goes by....it is doubtful
  - Desktop: Mac Mini's and the like. Plenty of third party monitors available. External cameras are available too. Continuity camera feature lets you use modern iPhones too as a camera. Some displays have microphones, plenty of headsets with microphones. Mac Studio and Mac Pro for the power users.
- You will need to figure out your needs and use cases

# Buying Guides:

- One big concern is what if I buy a mac and a new better one comes out?
  - In a general sense, over years, this will happen... Not much you can do about it.
  - However short term, one can estimate Apples product refreshes.
  - Great Guide: <https://buyersguide.macrumors.com/#mac>
- For just general research the internet is your friend.
  - Some give comprehensive guides.  
<https://www.macworld.com/article/219909/best-mac.html>
  - Plenty of other reviews of individual machines.
  - Lots of sites MacWorld, Arstechnica, Zdnet, Wired, PC Mag, Toms Hardware, gto5 mac, MacRumors etc.
  - Above list not complete, however do watch out for some flakey sites often pages into a websearch, or some private individual on Youtube