

Project 1: Proposal to design and build a computer

You are going to build a fictional computer, with all the trimmings and items listed below. You will have a budget, and a list of required components that the computer must have. You will design the computer to the specifications, and stay within the budget.

You can get the parts from anywhere: local stores, online stores, or from catalogs. All the parts have to be new and purchased (so nothing borrowed from family, friends, and no refurbished parts either)

For buying from online or catalog stores you should use the following web sites to get good prices from quality stores.

Price Watch <http://www.pricewatch.com>

Reseller Ratings <http://www.resellerratings.com>

Price Watch tells you where you will find the cheapest price of a component on the web. It can help you keep your cost down. However, you do have to buy from a quality vendor. That's where Reseller Ratings can be a great help. Their web site rates most online computer stores from 1 to 10, with 10 being the best rating. It works much like Consumer Reports. You are not allowed to buy from a store/vendor with an overall **lifetime** rating of less than 7.5.

When buying from online stores, use the Alt-Print Screen command or other capturing software to capture the individual items and the checkout screen, including shipping. You should paste the screen shot into your proposal. Remember that you do not actually buy the products (!!!), just get an accurate price.

For catalogs, make a copy of the article/item, including the catalog name and price, and add it to the proposal. For local stores, the store name and price will be enough. You can buy the components at several different stores, but remember that shipping costs to Alaska are usually high.

Start with a description of the computer system, followed by a list of the items and their price, with a total at the bottom. After this list, show me the screen shots of each one of the components, with an explanation of why you bought the specific brands/parts and why you bought it from that particular store. List the components in logical order. At the end show me the checkout screen with the shipping charges. You might want to include a conclusion at the end, and a list of resources you used for the project, whether online, locally, or magazines.

You will not be graded on how cheap or expensive the computer is, as long as you're within the budget. If you would like to add components not listed below, you can do so, as long as it fits within the budget, and after all the other components are listed.

I will demonstrate in class how to use the online stores for this project. It should be a learning experience as to what goes in putting a system together, but it should also be fun. You can use the help from your fellow classmates, but the final proposal should be your original work.

The proposal should be complete and professional, free of grammar, spelling, and format errors. You should submit this electronically to me at the email address listed below. No paper copies will be accepted, and no floppy disks or CD's.

You will have until April 10, 2008 to submit this assignment. I will grade the project, and give you the opportunity to revise this once. One week after I give you back your graded proposal the grade will be final, unless you submit a revision.

Have fun and good luck!

The deadline for this project is April 10, 2008. I will not accept new projects after this date, only revised versions.

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Budget: \$1500.00
Components:

- CPU: 2.0 GHz or faster, Dual Core
- Heat sink/Fan: Good quality
- System board: Supporting CPU and memory
- Memory: DDR, at least 2 GB
- Hard Drive: 200 GB or more, IDE, 7200 RPM
- DVD or CD/RW Drive: At least CD-RW/DVD drive
- Video Card: At least 128 MB video memory, can be onboard if used for the correct purpose
- Sound Card: Good quality, can be onboard
- Modem: 56K v90 (replace for network card, if desired)
- Network Card: Good quality, can be onboard (replace for modem card, if desired)
- Monitor: At least 19", should be LCD
- Keyboard: Any
- Mouse: Any
- Printer: Should print good resolution B&W and color, can be AIO
- USB Scanner: Scanning at 1200 dpi or higher, can be AIO
- Speakers: Good quality
- Case: Mid tower or bigger with enough bays for all drives
- Power Supply: Can be supplied with the case, otherwise stand alone
- Operating System Windows XP or Windows Vista
- **Shipping costs need to be included into the budget!!**