

Choosing and Using the Right Hardware and Software for Genealogy

****Request Companion Article:**

The companion article includes research of the topic for further study: links, resources and details not covered during the hour presentation.

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Request: Hardware and Software-Boise

Article Description: 200-plus pages with index, links

Key Note: The hardware and software discussion is very broad and the decision of what is best for you is based on your unique needs. The presentation will address the most important questions asked as genealogists. The companion document provides much more detail for your review and evaluation as you make choices about hardware and software specifically to your needs.

Course Description: PC or a laptop? What features are best when buying a scanner, camera, DVD, printer, and other peripherals? What software can I use for genealogy? Learn how to evaluate and make better choices in your purchase of hardware and software for your genealogical research.

The categories covered include:

1. Hardware
 - Should I use a Windows, Mac OS based computer?
 - Which is better, a laptop or PC?
 - Buy off the shelf or custom configuration?
 - What should my laptop/PC include (ram, hard drives, CD/DVD burner, etc.)?
 - I have an older computer, what are my options?
 - How can a genealogist plan for future equipment purchases?
 - How do you use a laptop in the research center?
 - What hardware should I use?
 - Apple vs. desktop?
2. Operating Systems
 - Should I use XP or Vista operating system?
 - I use a Mac OS, what is available for me?
 - I use an operating system other than Windows or Mac OS, what is available for me?
 - What are important facts I should know about my operating system?
3. Peripherals
 - What peripherals are beneficial to a genealogist?
 - What are the criteria in my purchase decision?
4. Software for the Genealogist

- What software do I need as a genealogist?
 - PAF 5.2 vs. all the other genealogy programs.
 - What other software are there specifically for genealogists?
 - What other software should I consider as a genealogist?
 - How can I evaluate software without purchasing the software?
5. Free Software
 - Explorer 6 vs. Explorer 7?
 - What is Mozilla Firefox?
 - What free software is important to consider?
 6. Purchasing Hardware and Software
 - How can I plan for future hardware and software purchases?
 - Where should I purchase hardware?
 - Do I need a service plan?
 7. Internet Connection
 - Broadband vs. satellite vs. dial up
 8. Setting up the Computer for Genealogy
 - Installing hardware and software
 - Organizing files
 9. Computer Training
 - Where can I go to learn more about using my computer and software?

During the presentation, I will briefly introduce the following tutorials. If you will send me an email requesting the presentation, I will include the following 6 tutorials in PDF formats following the conference to be delivered in May 2008.

1. What is a Computer

- Lesson 1: What is a Computer?
- Lesson 2: Input Devices
- Lesson 3: Output Devices
- Lesson 4: Data Storage
- Lesson 5: Types of Computers

Software

- Lesson 6: Types of Software
- Lesson 7: Licensing Basics
- Lesson 8: Installing Software

Maintenance

- Lesson 9: Cleaning your Computer
- Lesson 10: File Maintenance
- Lesson 11: ScanDisk
- Lesson 12: Defragmenting
- Lesson 13: Backing Up

- Lesson 14: Virus Protection

2. Windows XP-Getting Started

- Lesson 1: The Windows XP Desktop
- Lesson 2: Launching Programs and Internet Explorer from the Start Menu
- Lesson 3: Getting Familiar with the Windows XP Window
- Lesson 4: Moving and Sizing Windows
- Lesson 5: Customizing Windows XP Using the Control Panel

File Management

- Lesson 6: Files, Folders, and Drives
- Lesson 7: Using My Documents, My Computer and Windows Explorer
- Lesson 8: Adding Shortcuts

- Lesson 9: Using the Recycle Bin
- Lesson 10: Searching for Files and Folders
- Lesson 11: Managing User Accounts

Accessibility and Problem Solving

- Lesson 12: Taking Advantage of Accessibility Options
- Lesson 13: Using the Accessibility Wizard
- Lesson 14: Using the Help and Support Center
- Lesson 15: Using a Printer
- Lesson 16: Using Systems Tools for Basic Maintenance

3. Internet Basics

- Lesson 1: What is the Internet?
- Lesson 2: What is the World Wide Web?
- Lesson 3: Modems, Browsers, and ISPs
- Lesson 4: Bandwidth
- Lesson 5: Types of Internet Access
- Lesson 6: Surfing Strategies

Using Internet Explorer

- Lesson 7: Internet Explorer: Customizing your Browser
- Lesson 8: Internet Explorer: Favorites
- Lesson 9: Internet Explorer: History and Search
- Lesson 10: Internet Explorer: Working with Web Pages
- Lesson 11: Internet Explorer, Accessibility Features

Internet Security

- Lesson 12: Password Protection
- Lesson 13: Secure Transactions

- Lesson 14: Cookies
- Lesson 15: Anti-virus Software
- Lesson 16: Firewalls

4. Email Basics

- Lesson 1: What is Email?
- Lesson 2: Sending Email
- Lesson 3: Reply
- Lesson 4: Forward

Beyond the Basics

- Lesson 5: Other Types of Email
- Lesson 6: Attachments
- Lesson 7: Formatting Email

Working with Email

- Lesson 8: Mailing Lists and Newsgroups
- Lesson 9: Email Etiquette
- Lesson 10: Managing Email

5. Internet Threats

- Lesson 1: Accessing the Internet
- Lesson 2: Viruses, Worms, and Trojan Horses
- Lesson 3: Spyware, Ads, and Cookies
- Lesson 4: Hackers, Email, and Identity Theft
- Lesson 5: Shopping without intrusions

Keeping Children Safe Online

- Lesson 6: Beware Of Dark Alleyways In Public Places
- Lesson 7: Seek Safety First
- Lesson 8: Chat, Newsgroups, Instant Messaging, Email, and Pornography
- Lesson 9: Music, Computer Games, and Downloads
- Lesson 10: Who to Contact if You Detect Trouble

Protecting Your Data and Computer

- Lesson 11: Protecting Your Email
- Lesson 12: Monitoring Activity and Keeping Your Web Browser Secure
- Lesson 13: Filtering Software
- Lesson 14: Spyware Removal Tools
- Lesson 15: Protecting Yourself Against Viruses, Worms, and Harmful Code
- Lesson 16: Firewalls

6. Getting Started With Firefox

- Lesson 1: What Is Firefox?
- Lesson 2: Using the Firefox Interface

- Lesson 3: Browsing and Searching With Firefox

Firefox Options

- Lesson 4: Setting General Options
- Lesson 5: Setting Privacy Options
- Lesson 6: Setting Popup and Image Options
- Lesson 7: Tabbed Browsing
- Lesson 8: Downloads

Modifying Firefox

- Lesson 9: Themes
- Lesson 10: Extensions
- Lesson 11: Modifying Your Toolbars
- Lesson 12: Managing Popup Windows