Microsoft Copilot+ PC: A New Era for Windows PCs

Now, you have two flavors of Windows PCs to consider.

Last month's Guru article explored the forty-seven-year history of the microprocessor—the central processing unit that runs the applications on your computer.

Until recently, Intel's Core i3, i5, etc., and AMD's Ryzen microprocessors were the mainstay of personal computers. But that's changing – and Apple started it.

The day before I bought my new Copilot+ PC laptop. NOTE: This is an actor.

In 2020, Apple abandoned Intel and introduced a new series of Mac computers that used Apple's new "bespoke" M-series microprocessor. The M-1 microprocessor was faster and ran cooler than the earlier Intel versions. It also included parts designed for AI applications, such as Apple Intelligence. (Which I used to edit this article.)

Microsoft responded by developing a new hardware standard called "Copilot+ PC" to compete with the Mac M-series computers and handle the AI tasks that Microsoft was building into its Copilot[1] application.

At the same time, Qualcomm, which makes CPUs for Android mobile devices, developed its own ARM-based microprocessor, called the Snapdragon Elite X, to compete with Apple's M-series chips and meet Microsoft's Copilot+ PC specifications.

Microsoft then wrote a new version of Windows to run on the Snapdragon ARM chip.

The result is a new breed of laptops called "Copilot+ PC." Most use the Snapdragon Elite X microprocessor, while others use an advanced Intel CPU developed that competes with the Snapdragon.

Should You Buy a Copilot+ PC or an Intel Core or AMD Rysen Laptop?

An excellent question! I recently purchased an HP Omnibook Copilot+ PC with the Snapdragon Elite X microprocessor to replace an aging Dell laptop.

Pros: It's fast, cool (no fan noise), and runs all day on one battery charge. Microsoft software, such as Microsoft Office, Edge, and OneNote, runs smoothly. Most third-party productivity, creative, browsing, and media apps also run well.

Cons: It wouldn't run the interface for my older ScanSnap high-speed scanner, and getting it to recognize my Canon network printer required manual intervention. I suspect (hope) that either Microsoft or the peripheral vendors will fix these issues.

Conclusion: Copilot+ PCs are a promising option for Windows PCs, and most common applications work without a hitch. However, if you use specialized software, you should verify its compatibility with ARM microprocessors.

If you need help, just ask our tech team at: **https://engage.cmaprinceton.org/tech-help**.

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1 Microsoft Copilot is an AI application, similar to ChatGPT. Why Microsoft uses the same "Copilot" moniker for its Copilot+ PC spec is anyone's guess.