

Apple's New MacBook Neo

Apple has introduced a new, \$600 laptop called the MacBook Neo that may be worth a look, especially if you are thinking about buying a new computer.

Before going further, I should say that the best computer system – Windows or Mac – is the one you are comfortable using. But if you are planning to buy a new computer, the MacBook Neo is an option you may want to consider. It's a fast, well-designed, sturdy laptop that should provide years of reliable service.

My Experience Switching from Windows to Mac

I switched from Windows to Mac when I retired and began volunteering in CMAP's tech lab. Most folks were bringing MacBooks, and since my Windows laptop was getting a bit long in the tooth, I replaced it with a MacBook, which set me back about \$1300 (yikes).

I quickly found the Mac operating system (MacOS) to be more stable than Windows, easier to use, and well-integrated with my iPhone and iPad. The Windows-to-Mac learning curve was not difficult because both Windows and MacOS use many of the same keyboard shortcuts, folder structures, and mouse (or trackpad) controls. And MacOS updates won't interrupt you while you're working.

Documents created using Windows were compatible with those on a Mac. In fact, this has only improved over time, and today the Mac versions of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint are almost indistinguishable from their Windows counterparts.

Built-In Apps and Useful Features

MacOS includes an office suite with the Pages word processor, Numbers spreadsheet, and Keynote slideshow app (which I personally prefer over PowerPoint). The built-in email, calendar, and contacts apps are straightforward and easy to use, and the included PDF app, called "Preview," is excellent.

Apple Photos includes built-in picture editing tools that can remove unwanted objects from photos. The Time Machine software automatically backs up files every hour, and iCloud can synchronize email, calendars, photos, and documents with an iPad and iPhone.

Apple's newer processors are lightning fast, and because Apple designs both the computer and the operating system, everything works together very smoothly. If you also use an iPhone or iPad, you can read and send text messages, make phone calls, and even copy and paste between devices.



Steve just bought a MacBook Neo. He saved up \$600 by foregoing chew-toys during 2025.

Windows Versus Mac

The "Windows versus Mac" debate has been going on for years, with people passionately defending their preferred choice. When asked for advice on computer replacement, I suggest sticking with what works. If Windows suits you, there's little reason to switch. I use it myself for certain programs that aren't available for the Mac.

The MacBook Neo

The new MacBook Neo has been receiving very good reviews. It runs the same MacOS as other Mac computers, has a high-quality display, and at about \$600, it is priced similarly to many Windows laptops.

Folks in our tech lab will be glad to demonstrate MacOS and help you if you make the switch.

If you need help with your computer, just click "Tech Help" at the bottom of our website's home page or request help from our tech team at: <https://engage.cmaprinceton.org/tech-help>.