Nate's Computer Recommendations
For gamers   2021

Disclaimer: I'm not much of a gamer myself, and gamers usually know what they want. I've occasionally been asked what I recommend when buying a gaming machine for someone else, so that's more what this document is aimed at. However, if you're doing this, it might be better to get a gift card or contribute to the computer and let them build what they want.

Brands
The following are my recommended brands for gaming computers.

- Alienware
- MSI
- Razer

What to look for
Here are some key things to keep in mind when looking for a new gaming laptop or desktop.

- At least 16gb of RAM. You'll need 32gb for some bigger games. You wouldn't regret 64gb either.
- Hard drive speed is vital for load times. It is imperative that you get a device with an SSD hard drive.
- Intel and AMD both make great processors for gaming. Shoot for an Intel i9 or AMD Ryzen 9.
- Graphics perfromance is perhaps the most important factor here, and I'm no expert on graphics cards. Check PassMark's videocardbenchmark.net to compare your options.

Where to look
If you're buying a gaming rig, I don't recommend going to BestBuy or other retailers. Retailers package "bloatware" with their computers which just becomes a hassle. There are well-known places to look for gaming computers and components. Here are a few:

- newegg: newegg.com
- PC Part Picker: pcpartpicker.com
- Micro Center: microcenter.com

Operating Systems

Yes, Windows.
Personally, I currently only game on Linux. That might change in the future, but I have found that there are plenty of games for Steam / Linux, so I don't need to look any further.

That said, if you're building a gaming rig, there isn't much debate that you'll need a Windows machine. Almost any game made for MacOS or SteamOS is also made available on Windows, but the reverse is not true.