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bexappa

I'm a software engineer. Dumb to get a MacBook Air over pro if someone else is paying for it?

Question

I've just quit my job and am handing in my work laptop, which has been my only laptop for a number of years. My uncle has offered to buy me a laptop, and says money is not a factor. I wanted to get a MacBook Air. I'm a software engineer but have never done work on a personal device (since college) and don't code for fun. I imagine if I get another job in the future work would always provide my a laptop. I'm tempted to get a MacBook Air for personal use because it's lighter weight. What specs should I go for if price isn't an issue? And is it dumb to not get a pro if someone else is paying? It is totally possible that I never end up doing development on this device and just use it for web browsing, but who knows.

72

119

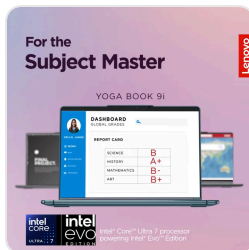
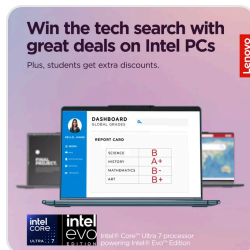
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Empyrion132 • 1y ago

Get a MacBook Air. The benefits of the Pro won't be any good for day to day uses, and the weight difference is noticeable when carrying it.

72

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As far as specs—get at least 16 GB RAM and 512 GB storage. If money isn't an issue, get 24 GB RAM and 1 TB storage—more RAM the better for VMs. And get AppleCare+ (which comes in a \$69/year option).

⬆ 50 ⬇ ⬅ Reply ➡ Share ...



MartynAndJasper • 1y ago

True - f**cking MacBook Air!

I'm a programmer who previously used Windows for over 30 years. I now use an M1 MBA as my daily driver and I love it!

16GB + 512GB is the lowest spec I would go for. M1 or M2 doesn't matter so much, most of a coders time is spent editing. A slightly faster build time is largely irrelevant.

I'd also go for 24GB if you have the money, but it's overkill at least for my workflow (flutter/mobile dev). That said, mobile emulators chew up a lot of RAM.

I never bothered with Apple Care, personally.

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⊕ 4 more replies



j_ault • 1y ago

It doesn't sound like you need a Pro, I'd get the Air. I'd spend the extra \$100 for the M2 but beyond that get what you need.

⬆ 17 ⬇ ⬅ Reply ➡ Share ...



thisdude415 • 1y ago

I absolutely love my MacBook Air. I don't think there is any reason to get the pro unless you have really demanding workflows. I recently was doing a little bit of video work, and my MacBook Air was able to encode the videos very very quickly.

⬆ 15 ⬇ ⬅ Reply ➡ Share ...

⊕ 5 more replies



argylekey • 1y ago

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If you're doing ML, game dev, etc. I think going for the pro might benefit you.

As with many things the answer truly is: depends.

↑ 5 ↓ ○ Reply ↗ Share ...

⊕ 2 more replies



zjara • 1y ago

Def get an air if you don't program in your free time. The weight diff is huge. I used to even have a 15" and a 13" pro and just used the 13 for portability and travel while my 15 sat at home in clamshell mode.

↑ 4 ↓ ○ Reply ↗ Share ...

⊕ 1 more reply



Catatonick • 1y ago

I use an Air occasionally. It's perfectly fine for programming. I even use it for rendering video sometimes.

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Interesting-Salt1291 • 1y ago

I work in audio/video, and I also just chose the Air over the Pro model. It's incredible what the Air can handle these days.

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r/macbookair • 2 mo. ago

I'm a bit regret with my choice of M3 Macbook Air

32 upvotes · 36 comments



r/macbookair • 2 mo. ago

Regret buying M3 MacBook Air...

481 upvotes · 376 comments



r/macbook • 2 yr. ago

Should I, a college student, get a MacBook Air or Pro?

4 upvotes · 24 comments



r/macbookair • 2 mo. ago

I bought a MacBook Air in 2023 and it was the Best Tech Purchase I've Made

58 upvotes · 19 comments



r/macbookair • 3 mo. ago

Anyone else still using their 2017 MacBook Air?

9 upvotes · 21 comments

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169 upvotes · 140 comments

 r/macbookair • 1 mo. ago

I bought a MacBook. Now what?

27 upvotes · 56 comments

 r/macbookair • 1 mo. ago

I just bought a Macbook Air M2 13.6 16/256 about a month ago. After reading rumors on this subreddit about a new MacBook Air M4 being released soon with a lot better performance...



93 upvotes · 201 comments

 r/macbookair • 1 mo. ago

Macbook Air M3 or Macbook Pro M1 Pro

13 upvotes · 44 comments

 r/macbookair • 1 mo. ago

Today I suddenly decided that I need MacBook Air, and old one. Bought 13inch 2015 model for 100usd. (i5,8gb). Question for the owners of the same machine: What's your experienc...



57 upvotes · 127 comments

 r/macbookair • 2 mo. ago

Is Macbook Air M1 still worth buying for a Student whose use case is mostly to attend online classes and watch videos?

7 upvotes · 33 comments

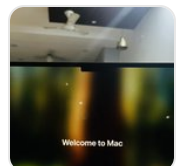
 r/macbookair • 3 mo. ago

Should I buy a M1 Macbook air (~ 650 USD) right now if I plan to use it for the next 4-5 years? or should I go for M2 air?

8 upvotes · 17 comments

 r/macbookair • 3 mo. ago

Finally upgraded from windows old school laptop. What things i should doing first on MacBook air?



42 upvotes · 16 comments

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Do MacBook airs usually sell out upon release?

5 upvotes · 20 comments

 r/macbookair • 1 mo. ago

Need a new macbook air by the summer. M2, M3 or wait for M4?

5 upvotes · 5 comments

 r/macbookair • 1 mo. ago

UK anybody know where I can sell my MacBook Air for the highest price?

7 upvotes · 4 comments

 r/macbook • 2 yr. ago

Hi! I am in the market for buying a new laptop. I have always been a windows person but my surface tab died on me without warning and nobody wants to work on it. So now I am thinking of getting a MacBo...

1 upvote · 17 comments

 r/IBO • 2 yr. ago

completely unrelated to the ib but is getting a touchscreen 2 in 1 laptop worth it for uni?

6 upvotes · 11 comments

 r/computers • 1 yr. ago

Do you think a Dell XPS laptop is what I need?is it overpriced?

1 upvote · 8 comments

 r/pcmasterrace • 2 yr. ago

Is it smart to get a gaming laptop over a gaming desktop+weak laptop as someone who's rarely home?

1 upvote · 9 comments

 r/macbookair • 1 mo. ago

Just got my first Macbook ever! 🎉

657 upvotes · 54 comments



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 r/macbookair • 3 mo. ago

New macbook air user



327 upvotes · 50 comments



r/buildapc • 2 yr. ago

Is it just better to buy a gaming PC that's pre built?

17 upvotes · 26 comments

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