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Subject: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?

Posted by [nikki6ixx](#) on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 19:27:53 GMT

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So here's what I'm thinking...

I want to build up a small Media Center PC for my TV room, because I'm getting sick of missing good documentaries because I'm at work, and I'd also like to be able to stream stuff from a small media storage hard-drive over a wireless network.

Preferably, the OS on it would be a Windows system, but I'm conflicted as to whether it should be Windows Vista, or the XP-based Media Center. Apparently, some people have complained that the Vista version has been hacked up worse than Joan Rivers, but then again, the Vista version is the most up-to-date. User friendliness is a factor too, because the older folks will be toying around with this too.

Space is a concern, and the computer has to fit in a width of 6 inches, so if the case is 5.5 inches, that'd be great. Height, and length are of no real concern, just the width.

The system has to be reasonably quiet; I'm not a stickler for silence, so I'm willing to have some fan sound if necessary.

It also has to be pretty fast, in order to run Vista, and to be able to record at a decent speed, and to wirelessly (sp?) stream anything from mp3's to DivX avi's, or other large formats. Although it won't be used for gaming, it'll need a decent graphics card that will be able to pipe out good picture to a large TV; so S-Video is going to be OK... but if possible, a Component-video output (or similar) would be much better, and bonus points if it can output in HD.

Hard Drive space of about 250 GB or more should be fine, and it doesn't have to be the fastest HD around, but the quieter, the better.

As for the recording card, it'd be great if I could get a dual-tuner set-up, but I'll easily settle for a single tuner.

Now, I also need help selecting a processor, and motherboard, among other things. I'm pretty green at computer's, and I can only do basic work on them, but I'm willing to learn. So, if you have some spare time, and would like to help me out, it would be much appreciated.

Since I'm in Canada, I cannot use NewEgg, but I've been directed towards this website, <http://www.tigerdirect.ca/>, so if you find anything that matches, or closely resembles what you think the computer should have in it, you can find it on here.

Thanks for your help, and I'll check up every so often, and answer any questions you may have.

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