This is Not a Guide to Tech for the Holidays [wink, nudge]

Maxwell Memorial Library's Technology Class
Thursday, September 26, 2019

0. Introduction

September is, of course, far too early to be thinking about things like the Holiday Season. On the other hand, you might be considering some sort of tech purchase for yourself at any time of the year, right?

This month's tech program will look at some of the tech — hardware and software — that is newly out or on the horizon for release in the next few months. We'll also look at things that the current tech environment might require of you regardless of what new gadgets you get or don't get.

1. A Perennial Need: Update Your Security

Malware is everywhere, and ransomware — as users of Onondaga County libraries hardly need reminding — is an increasing threat. You should have antivirus protection and general anti-malware protection on all your devices, and (most importantly) you should be practicing good security hygiene.

The good news is that you may already have (most of) the software that you need for maintaining a good level of safety.

- If you use Windows 10, then Windows Defender provides levels of protection that are competitive with various paid alternatives. Felicity Kay of the SafetyDetective blog recommends buying and installing Malwarebytes to fill some of the threats that Windows defender doesn't protect against.

- Macs don't have antivirus built in, so you probably want to get the paid version of something like Sophos Home Premium or Avast Security Pro for Mac.

- Mobile devices also need protection. This fact might influence your choice of which brand to get since some (notably Avast & Malwarebytes) cover mobile OSes as well as desktop/laptop OSes. Most software will also have an option (possibly for a few dollars more per year) that covers multiple devices rather than just 1.

Links to software sites:
- Malwarebytes (https://www.malwarebytes.com/mobile)
- Sophos (https://home.sophos.com)
- Avast:
  - PC (https://www.avast.com)
  - Mac (https://www.avast.com/en-us/free-mac-security)

Articles:

- [Windows Defender vs. Other Antivirus: What's Best for 2019?](https://www.safetydetectives.com/blog/windows-defender-vs-antiviruses-is-defender-enough-for-you/)
Felicity Kay, 2019-07-24 *SafetyDetective* blog
(https://www.safetydetectives.com/blog/windows-defender-vs-antiviruses-is-defender-enough-for-you/)
- [Best antivirus for Mac: Protect yourself from malicious software](https://www.macworld.com/article/3263722/best-antivirus-for-mac.html)
Glenn Fleishman, 2019-08-15, *Macworld*
(https://www.macworld.com/article/3263722/best-antivirus-for-mac.html)

2. Mac applications may need upgrading (or replacing)

When the next version of the macOS (Catalina) launches, any applications you run on your Mac will have to be 64-bit applications. You may have sen a dialogue box come up when you launch some of your apps telling you (in cryptic terms) that those apps won't run in the near future. This elimination of compatibility with 32-bit apps is what's behind those warnings.

- [Apple is killing off 235 Mac apps when it launches macOS Catalina – here's what you should do](https://www.techradar.com/news/apple-is-killing-off-235-mac-apps-when-it-launches-macos-catalina-heres-what-you-should-do)
Matt Hanson, 2019-09-10, *Techradar* (https://www.techradar.com/news/apple-is-killing-off-235-mac-apps-when-it-launches-macos-catalina-heres-what-you-should-do)

3. Internet of things + smart this & smart that

Almost everything seems to be getting "smarter," and even those thins that aren't can now get networked with those that are in the Internet of things.

3.1 Smart —[1]

- Smart air filters
- Smart BBQ pits
- Smart fragrance diffusers
- Smart gardens
- Smart monitoring of a dumb car's mechanical operation
- Smart mugs
- Smart ovens
- Smart sunglasses
- Smart thermostats
- Smart toothbrushes
- …

---

1   Wasn't *Hi-Fi* in the 1960s the equivalent buzzword of today's *Smart*?

3.2 Around the house

Not always "smart", as such, but…

- Precise kitchen scales, thermometers
- Voice operated trash cans
- Smart lights that help you go to sleep/wake up "naturally"
- Neato Robotics D7 Connected Robot Vacuum
- iRobot Roomba 980 Vacuum Cleaning Robot
- The LARQ Self-Cleaning Water Bottle
- Google, T3007ES, Nest Learning Thermostat

4. Some specific hardware that showed up in various lists

4.1 Phones

- iPhone 11 Pro
- iPhone 11 Pro Max
- Samsung Galaxy Note 10+ Android Smartphone
- Google Pixel 3 XL 64GB
- Apple iPhone XS Max 64GB

4.2 Tablets

- iPad Pro
- Apple iPad Air
- Fire HD 10 Tablet with Alexa
- Fire 10 Kids Edition Tablet
- The Fire 7 Tablet

4.2.a Accessories

- Apple Pencil For iPad Pro

4.3 Laptops

- HP Envy 13 Touchscreen Laptop
- Apple MacBook Air with Retina Display
- Acer Chromebook R 11 Convertible

4.4 Going to 11: Wi-Fi repeaters, portable chargers, …

- When More Power is Needed: Range Extender
- Extra power/portable recharging/charging docks
- SSDs that can hold lots of data and connect to mobile devices

- ◦ SanDisk Extreme Portable SSD

4.5 Monitors for your digital assistant

- Amazon Echo Show 5
- Amazon Echo Plus (2nd Generation)
- Nest Hub with Google Assistant

4.6 Wearables

4.6.a Smart watches

- Apple Watch Series 5
- Samsung Galaxy Watch Smartwatch

4.6.b Fitness/biometrics

- Fitbit Versa 2 Smartwatch
- Fitbit Inspire HR Heart Rate & Fitness Tracker

4.6.c ???

- Bose Bluetooth Audio Sunglasses

4.7 TV

- TVs that integrate with your other devices
- LG Nano 8 Series
- TCL 5-Series Smart 4K TV (55-inch)

4.8 Streaming

- Roku Ultra
- Roku Streaming Stick
- Apple TV 4K Streaming Device
- Fire TV Stick 4K with Alexa Voice Remote

4.9 Audio

- Sonos Play:5 Wireless Smart Speaker
- Bose Soundbar 700
- Bose Home Speaker 300 Smart Speaker
- Sony SRS-XB12 Extra Bass Wireless Speaker

4.10 Headphones/buds

- Google Pixel Buds
- Apple AirPods with Wireless Charging Case
- Pioneer Rayz Plus Noise-Canceling Earbuds
- Master & Dynamic MW07 Completely Wireless Earbuds
- PLT BackBeat FIT 6100 Wireless Sport Headphones
- Sony WH-1000XM3 Wireless Noise-Canceling Headphones

4.11 Gaming

- Nintendo Switch/Nintendo Switch Lite Handheld
- Oculus Quest All-in-one Virtual Reality Headset
- Xbox One X Gaming Console

4.12 ???

- For those who have everything but can't always locate it: Tile Pro Tracker with Replaceable Battery
- Gnarbox Portable Camera Backup and Editing System

5. General articles

- Nine technology trends in 2019
  2019–01–02, *BBVA*, (https://www.bbva.com/en/nine-technology-trends-in-2019/)
- Top 10 Trending Technologies To Master In 2019
  Saurabh, last updated on 2019-06-20, *Edureka!* (https://www.edureka.co/blog/top-10-trending-technologies/)

- 60 Best Tech Gifts for 2019 - Top Tech Gift Ideas for Gadget Lovers
  Stefan Vazharov, Updated: 2019–06–13, *Best tech*
  (https://www.bestproducts.com/tech/gadgets/g293/best-tech-gifts-at-every-price/)
- The 50 Best Tech Gifts to Keep Everyone Happy (and Out of Your Hair)
  2019–08–12, *Esquire* (https://www.esquire.com/lifestyle/g356/electronic-gift-ideas/)
- Techies Gift Guide: Best Selling Tech Gifts in 2019
  Jennifer, 2019–09–16, *Brostrick* (https://www.brostrick.com/tech/best-tech-gifts-this-year/)
- The 35 Must-Have Tech Gifts On Every Gadget Geeks Wishlist
  Sophia, 2019–09–12, *Giftsicle* (https://www.giftsicle.com/presents/new-tech-gift-gadgets/)