

December New Tech SIG

2021 Tech Purchasing Guide for Holiday Shopping

3:30 – 5:00 pm
Thursday December 16, 2021
GCC Computer Classroom Room



Joe Parla
Grand Computers Club



Topics

[Desktop computers](#)

[Laptop computers](#)

[Tablets](#)

[Smartphones](#)

[Headphones](#)


[Bluetooth speakers](#)

[Power banks](#)

[Smart speakers](#)

[Deal of the Day](#)

[Fun stuff](#)



2021 Tech Purchasing Guide

**Do you have
some extra cash
from pandemic
subsidies or not
going shopping?**

2021 Tech Purchasing Guide



**Stay tuned
for info on
how to save
millions on
a special
sale item.**



2021 Tech Purchasing Guide

**Are you
afraid to go
to malls
filled with
zombie
shoppers?**



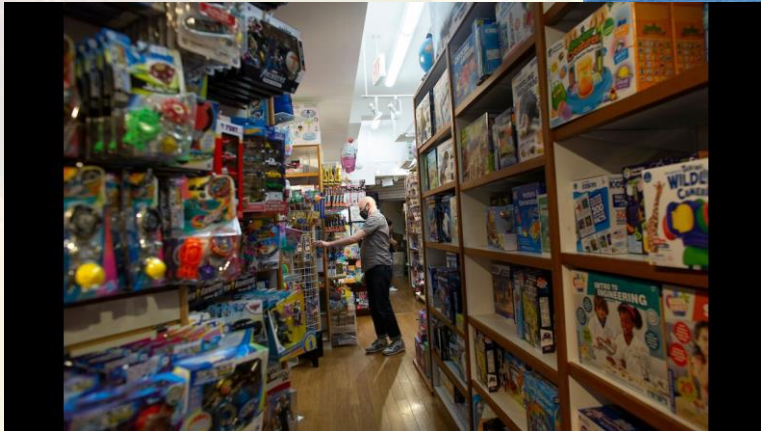
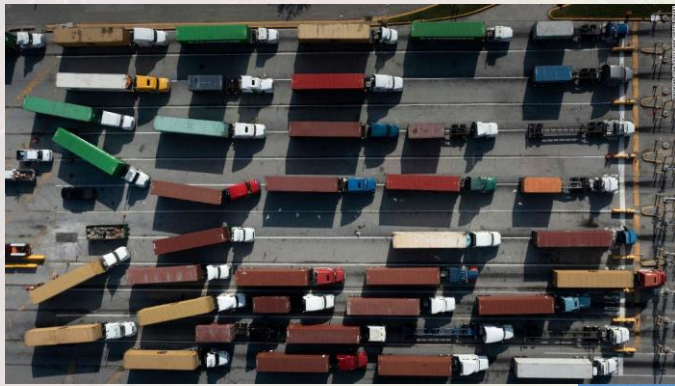
2021 Tech Purchasing Guide

**This guide
may help
you get rid
of that cash
without
leaving
home!**



2021 Tech Purchasing Guide

**This season
will have
some
additional
challenges
and
struggles.**



2021 Tech Purchasing Guide

Supply chain delays and low inventory may require aggressive planning and action.

- **Start shopping now**
- **If you can find it; buy it now**
- **There will be few discounts and sales later this season**
- **Out of stock items may not be replenished**
- **Beware of scams and false delivery claims**
- **More people are buying more online than last season**

2021 Tech Purchasing Guide

Tips and hints to enhance your shopping experience.

TECHSPOT

BEST OF
2021

DESKTOP PCs

Best for Gaming

HP Omen 30L

Price: \$2,169

Best Gaming Value

Lenovo Legion Tower 5

Price: \$890

Best for Basic Computing

Acer Aspire TC (TC-391)

Price: \$425

Best All-In-One PC

Apple iMac 24" M1 - 2021

Price: \$1,258

Best Gaming All-In-One

HP Envy 32 AIO

Price: \$2,299

Best Value All-In-One

HP Pavilion 24 AIO - 2021

Price: \$799

Best Mini PC

Apple Mac Mini M1

Price: \$639

Best Windows Mini PC

Lenovo IdeaCentre Mini 5

Price: \$640

Best for Gaming

HP Omen 30L



One shortcoming with most PC makers offering pre-builts is that you can't know exactly what you're getting (except for [boutique builders](#)). HP is one of the only PC makers that specifies the brand of the RAM, SSD, and power supply in the systems they sell which is a big plus.

At the time of writing, for \$2,500, you can get the HP Omen 30L powered by Nvidia's GeForce RTX 3080 graphics card, Intel's Core i9-10850K 10-core processor, 32GB of RAM clocked at 3,200Mhz from HyperX, a 1TB PCIe SSD, and a 2TB 7,200 RPM disk drive.

The SSD is from WD's Black series – probably the DRAM-equipped, PCIe 3.0 SN750 as the CPU doesn't support PCIe 4.0. The Cooler Master PSU offers 750W and 80 Plus Platinum efficiency.

IN NUMBERS

Price:

\$2,069

TechSpot Metascore:

80

User Reviews:

6.8

Best Mini PC

Apple Mac Mini M1



For \$699, Apple's [Mac Mini](#) is as powerful as the more expensive version of the 24" iMac, it's driven by the Apple M1 chip and 8 active graphics processing units. This small form factor computer is 7.7" long and wide, and 1.4" tall, including an internal PSU.

Connectors include two Thunderbolt/USB 4.0 with 6K display support (using either connector), one HDMI 2.0 with 4K support, two USB-A 3.0, Ethernet and a headphone jack with no microphone support. The Mini also has a basic built-in speaker.

The base Mini configuration comes with 8GB of RAM and 256GB of storage. As with the iMac, you may want to add \$200 for 16GB of RAM. Unlike the iMac, relying on external storage devices will hurt the Mini's portability, so you may also want to add \$200 for 512GB of storage, or even \$400 for 1TB. If you want 10Gb Ethernet instead of the default 1Gb, it'll be another \$100.

IN NUMBERS

Price:

\$639
on Amazon

TechSpot Metascore:

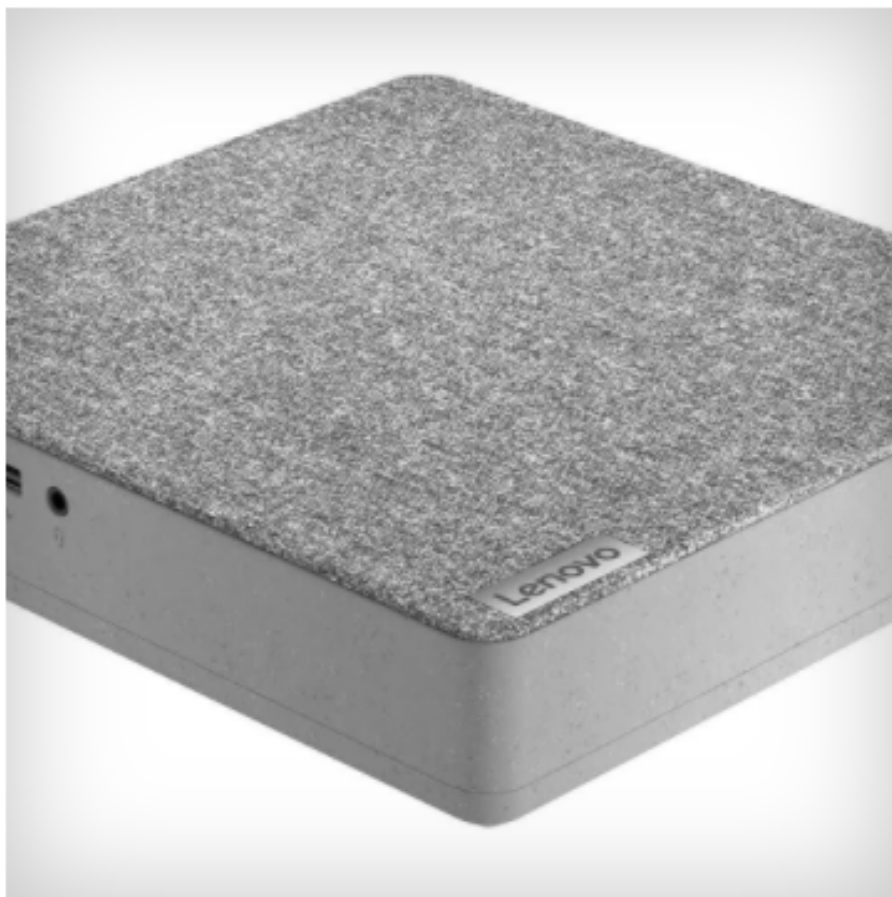
90

User Reviews:

9.4

Best Windows Mini PC

Lenovo IdeaCentre Mini 5



For \$600, Lenovo offers an unbeatable combination of performance, price, and compact size for a Windows PC: the IdeaCentre Mini 5 includes Intel's desktop Core i5-10400 six-core processor, 1 stick of 8GB of RAM at 2,666MHz (you can and probably should add another one), and a 512GB NVME SSD.

At 7.64" x 7.18" x 1.57", the IdeaCentre is about the same size as the Mac Mini, but it will need an external power brick. On the other hand, it has the space for a 2.5" SATA drive if you need more storage.

Connectors include six USB 3.0 (or "3.2 Gen 1"), including one Type-C, DisplayPort, HDMI, Ethernet and a headphone/microphone jack. The PC comes with Windows 10 Home.

IN NUMBERS

Price:

\$640

TechSpot Metascore:

84

Best laptop 2021: top picks for every user and every budget

By Matt Hanson · 9 days ago















The best laptops from Dell, Apple, Razer and more


















Included in this guide:



(Image credit: Apple / Future)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| MacBook Pro 13" | MacBook Pro 14" | MacBook Pro 16" |
| From \$1299 | From \$1999 | From \$2499 |
| Buy | Buy | Buy |
| Learn more > | Learn more > | Learn more > |
|  |   |   |
| Apple M1 chip | Apple M1 Pro chip or Apple M1 Max chip | Apple M1 Pro chip or Apple M1 Max chip |
| 8-core CPU | Up to 10-core CPU | 10-core CPU |
| 8-core GPU | Up to 32-core GPU | Up to 32-core GPU |
|  |  |  |
| Up to 16GB unified memory | Up to 64GB unified memory | Up to 64GB unified memory |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| MacBook Pro 13" | MacBook Pro 14" | MacBook Pro 16" |
| 2TB Maximum configurable storage ¹ | 8TB Maximum configurable storage ¹ | 8TB Maximum configurable storage ¹ |
| 13.3" Retina display ² | 14.2" Liquid Retina XDR display ² | 16.2" Liquid Retina XDR display ² |
|  |  |  |
| Up to 20 hours battery life ³ | Up to 17 hours battery life ³ | Up to 21 hours battery life ³ |
|  |  |  |
| 720p FaceTime HD camera | 1080p FaceTime HD camera | 1080p FaceTime HD camera |
| 3.0 lb. Weight | 3.5 lb. Weight | 4.7 lb. Weight |
|  |  |  |
| Touch Bar and Touch ID | Touch ID | Touch ID |

TECHSPOT

BEST OF 2021 TABLETS

Best for Most

Apple iPad 10.2" (9th-gen)

Price: \$329

Best for One-Hand Use

Apple iPad Mini 6 - 2021

Price: \$518

Best of the Best

Apple iPad Pro (M1)

Price: \$749

Best Productivity Tablet

Microsoft Surface Pro 8

Price: \$1,099

Best Android Tablet

Samsung Galaxy Tab S7+

Price: \$749

A Budget Option

Amazon Fire HD 10 - 2021 model

Price: \$149

Best Smartphones of 2021

Searching for a smartphone with great battery life? Awesome cameras? A truly affordable price? Take a look at these options.

By Nicholas De Leon

Updated October 29, 2021

When you shop through retailer links on our site, we may earn affiliate commissions. 100% of the fees we collect are used to support our nonprofit mission. [Learn more.](#)



Photo: Consumer Reports

Pick your Pixel.



Pixel 6



Pixel 6 Pro



Pixel 5

Display

6.4" FHD+ Smooth Display[15] - up to 90Hz

Cameras

50 MP wide - 12 MP ultrawide[17] - 8 MP front camera

Processor

Powerful Google Tensor chip

Security

Next-gen Titan M2 security chip

Battery and Charging

Beyond 24-hour battery[16] - Fast wireless charging[21]

Display

6.7" LTPO QHD+ Smooth Display[15] - up to 120Hz

Cameras

50 MP wide - 12 MP ultrawide[17] - 48 MP telephoto (4x) - 11 MP front camera

Processor

Powerful Google Tensor chip

Security

Next-gen Titan M2 security chip

Battery and Charging

Beyond 24-hour battery[16] - Fast wireless charging[21]

Display

6.0" FHD+ (1080 x 2340) Flexible OLED - Up to 90Hz[15]

Cameras

12 MP dual-pixel & 16 MP ultrawide rear camera - 8 MP front camera

Processor

Qualcomm Snapdragon 765G

Security

Titan M security chip

Battery and Charging

All-day battery[22] - Wireless charging[23]

Apple iPhone 13 Pro Max

PRICE ↓

SOLD BY

\$1,099.00

Prime Eligible

Amazon

Shop



Apple's latest supersized flagship phone improves upon its predecessor by adding a high-refresh-rate display that makes animations appear much smoother than before, a macro photography mode that makes it easier to take close-up photos of objects like flowers and pets, and a new video mode that automatically blurs the background of your subject, creating a dramatic effect.

While the 13 Pro Max will cost you \$100 more than the 13 Pro, it packs in several more hours of battery life (53 vs. 40) and a bigger display (6.7 inches vs. 6.1 inches). The cameras are equally capable. (With last year's iPhone 12 Pro models, you have to step up to the Max to get the best camera technology.)

On the flip side, the Max version is significantly heavier than the regular iPhone 13 Pro, and it can be tough to use one-handed, even for people with long fingers. If you're wary of bulky phones, you might be happier with the 13 Pro.

The iPhone 13 series also includes the less feature-rich iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 Mini. And if you don't need the latest and greatest iPhone, you can go with the previous-generation iPhone 12, which is now roughly \$100 less expensive than when it debuted in 2020. One year later, it's still a great smartphone.

Best headphones 2021: the tops cans from Sony, Bose and more

By Nick Pino , Olivia Tambini 7 days ago

The top audio products in every style, for every budget



Included in this guide:

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Sony WH-1000XM4 | 1More Triple Driver In-Ear... | SoundMAGIC E11BT | Bowers & Wilkins PX7 Wire... | Play Back |
| CHECK PRICE | CHECK PRICE | CHECK PRICE | CHECK PRICE | CHECK PRICE |



(Image credit: TechRadar)

Top 10 Bluetooth Speakers 2021 Updated November, 2021

Join the millions that have trusted BuyersGuide.org to help them make smarter buying decisions. Let our independent expert reviews and data-driven shopping recommendations help you find the speaker that's right for you.

[Advertiser disclosure](#)
[About our rankings](#)

Best Bluetooth

9.9 ★★★★★

Save 10%

TREBLAB HD77 Bluetooth Speaker

- 20 hours of playtime
- 33' Bluetooth wireless range
- IPX6 waterproof (resists heavy water spray)
- 7.3" long x 3" deep x 3" tall, weighs 1.38 lbs
- Ideal for indoors, outdoors, & travel

[Read Full Review](#)

Check Price

amazon

Picked by 1152 people this week!



9.6 ★★★★★

Save 20%

Tribit XSound Go Upgraded Bluetooth Speaker

- 24 hours of playtime
- 100' Bluetooth wireless range
- IPX7 waterproof (submerge in 3 ft depth for 30 min)
- 6.7" long x 2.2" deep x 2.3" tall, weighs .8 lbs
- Ideal for indoors & outdoors

Check Price

amazon



Best Overall

9.4 ★★★★★



testing products to recommend the best picks for most consumers. We only make money if you purchase a product through our links, and all opinions about the products are our own. [Read more](#)

BEST OF THE BEST

Anker
PowerCore III Elite
25600 60W

[Check Price](#)[amazon.com](#)**BEST BANG FOR THE BUCK**

Anker
PowerCore 5000
Portable Charger

[Check Price](#)[amazon.com](#)

Anker
PowerCore Slim 10000

[Check Price](#)[amazon.com](#)

Belkin
Boost Charge USB-C PD
Power Bank 20K

[Check Price](#)[amazon.com](#)

Samsung
25W Portable Battery

[Check Price](#)[amazon.com](#)

Best smart speaker for 2021

These are our picks for the best smart speakers you can buy for Google Assistant, Siri and Alexa's help around the house.



Andrew Gebhart, Molly Price Oct. 24, 2021 4:00 a.m. PT



Best overall

Amazon Echo (4th gen)

[Jump to details](#)

\$60 AT CRUTCHFIELD



Best budget option

Google Nest Mini (2nd gen)

[Jump to details](#)

\$25 AT BEST BUY



Best for HomeKit

Apple HomePod Mini

[Jump to details](#)

\$100 AT BEST BUY



Best sound quality

Sonos One (2nd gen)

[Jump to details](#)

\$219 AT SONOS

12 Bestselling Electric Vehicles of 2021 (So Far)

Sales of electric vehicles are booming. Here are the cars that are coming out on top.



BY ANNIE WHITE OCT 29, 2021



12. Hyundai Ioniq Electric (1595 units sold)



HYUNDAI

Hyundai's Ioniq lineup includes a hybrid and plug-in hybrid, in addition to the EV fêted here. The 1022 new [Ioniq Electrics](#) sold in the better half of 2021 represent a 167 percent increase compared to 2020. The Ioniq EV has a relatively small 38.3-kWh battery pack, and its estimated range of 170 miles is on the small side, too. Shoppers who like the Ioniq's looks but need more range are in luck: The plug-in hybrid has 29 miles of EV range and earns 52 mpg even after its battery pack has been depleted.

- Base price: \$34,250
- EPA Fuel Economy combined/city/highway: 133/145/121 MPGe
- EPA Maximum EV range: 170 miles

1. Tesla Model Y (132,000 units sold)*



MARC URBANO | CAR AND DRIVER

- Base price: \$41,190
- EPA Fuel Economy combined/city/highway: 129/140/119 MPGe (Standard Range RWD)
- EPA Range: 244 (Standard Range Plus RWD) 326 (Long Range AWD) miles



Deal of the Day



Today's special

Act fast.

**Save over \$1 million dollars on this
unique item.**

Quantities are limited (to 1).

1 – KISMET by Lürssen: \$201,143,800 USD

Update: Price Drop To 199,639,700!



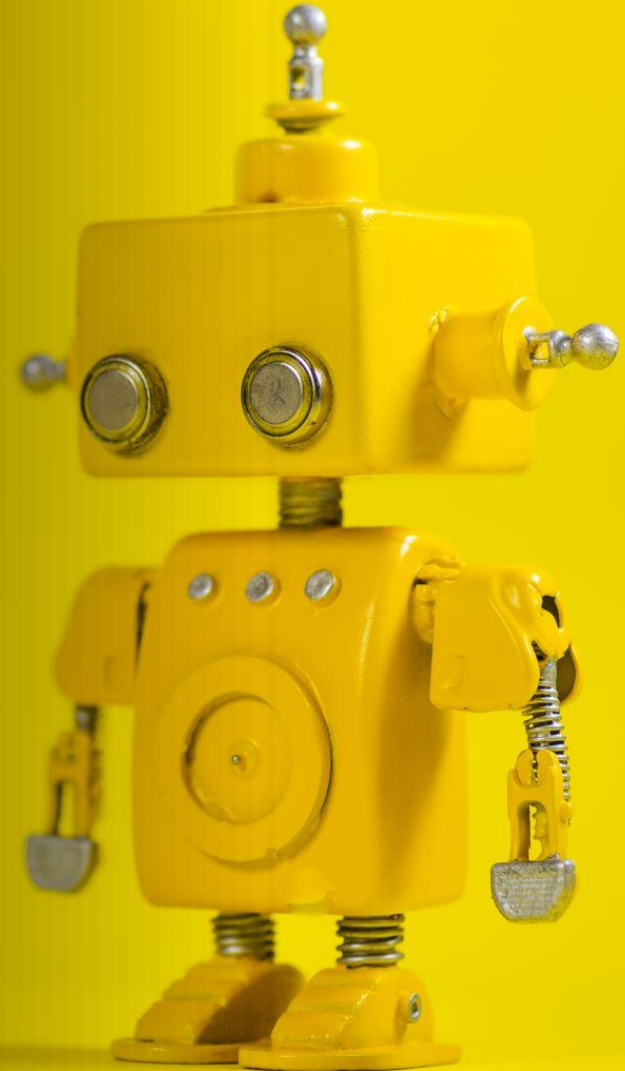
**If saving money is not as important
as having the *most expensive* item
of its kind, then here is another
exciting offer at less than
\$1.2 billion US dollars.**

\$1,190,731,500.00





Tech Fun Stuff



The Latest Echo Dot For Kids



~~\$59.99~~

\$34.99 (42% Off!)

 Shop at Amazon

The Ember Temperature Control Smart Mug



\$99.95

 Shop at Amazon

The PhoneSoap Phone Sanitizer & Charger



\$79.95

 [Shop at Phone Soap](#)

The LARQ Self-Cleaning Water Bottle




\$99.95

 [Shop at Larq](#)

The Bartesian Premium Cocktail Machine



\$349.85

 Shop at Amazon

The WickedBone Smart Bone



~~\$169.00~~

\$69.99 (59% Off!)

 Shop at Amazon

RAK

12 TOOLS IN 1

- 1 Hammer Head
- 2 Flat Pliers
- 3 Pipe Pliers
- 4 Nail Claw
- 5 Wire Cutter
- 6 Flathead Screwdriver
- 7 Phillips Screwdriver
- 8 Serrated Knife
- 9 Nail File
- 10 Bottle Opener
- 11 Knife
- 12 Saw Blade
- 13 Safety Lock



Compact and
Lightweight



Ergonomic
Design



Heavy Duty
Construction



Safety Lock
Feature


Price 24.99

The Cell Phone Jail



\$15.95

\$11.98 (25% Off!)

 [Shop at Amazon](#)

MasterClass Online Courses – [Buy It Here](#)



MASTERCLASS



Simone Biles

Teaches Gymnastics
Fundamentals



Stephen Curry

Teaches Shooting, Ball-
Handling, and Scoring




Tony Hawk

Teaches Skateboarding

 [Shop at Masterclass](#)

the Pickle Flavored Candy Canes – [Buy It Here](#)



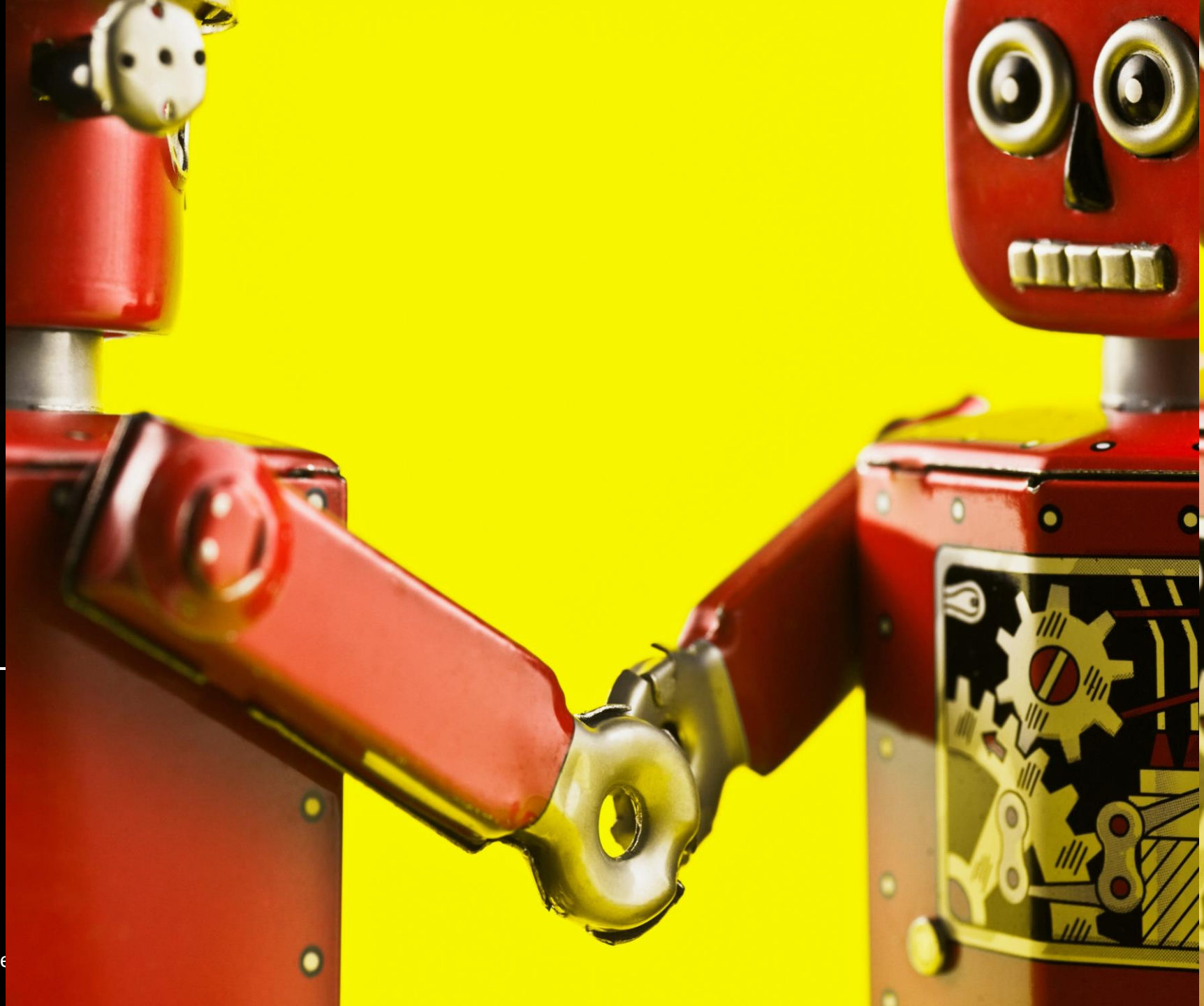
 [Shop Now](#)



Tech Toy Experiences

12/16/2021

www.grandcomputer.com



Vehicles

Internal Combustion Engine (ICE)

Hybrid - ICE & Battery

Electric - Battery only

Flying car

Recreation Vehicle (RV)

Watercraft

Drones & robots

All about you (me)

Arduino/"Rubber Ducky"

Raspberry Pi 4 Desktop

Build your own computer, router

Backup NAS (Network Drives)

Multi-boot from single USB

Tech Helper repair kit/tools

Chromebook as primary device

All about you (me) continued
Gaming Consoles & Systems
Virtual and augmented reality
Cutting the cord
Alternative power
Gray hat projects

Other Sites

- **Techspot Reviews**
- **Tech Radar Reviews**
- **Consumer Reports**
- **Buyers Guide**
- **CNET Reviews**
- **Best Reviews**

Next New Tech SIG

To be announced

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Thursday January 20, 2022

**Via Zoom & in GCC
Computer Classroom**

Questions???

