Technology Purchase - Evaluation Guide

It pays to do your research before making a purchase. A little online research should yield a wealth of information about the product in which you're interested. Here are a few tips for researching product reviews:

- Model numbers mean *a lot* even if they are similar—be sure the review you're reading corresponds to the correct product
- Use a diversity of review sources—don't look to a single site or review before purchasing, read a few different pages, and skim through user-comments in addition to formal reviews.
- Use your best powers of discernment (does the review source have a dog in the fight?)

A few popular review sources:

- http://www.tomsguide.com/
- http://www.engadget.com/reviews/
- http://www.pcmag.com/reviews
- http://www.cnet.com/reviews/
- http://www.digitaltrends.com/product-reviews/
- http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/review/pcs/
- http://www.techradar.com/us/reviews/pc-mac/pc-mac-desktops

Additional resources for making purchase decisions:

- http://www.techsoup.org/hardware   (this is a great place to start when making any purchase decisions)
- Not a review site, but useful as an example list of criteria for tech-purchases at a university: https://it.ouhsc.edu/forms/productreview.asp