

# Martha's Dream System - Assignment 3 - BCST 119

My Dream Machine needs to meet multiple purposes:

- It must be fast, large, light, and lovely.
- It must accommodate multiple resource-demanding programs at once (PhotoShop, Dreamweaver).
- It must allow working in both a creative and a practical environment (Quicken, Office as well as web development).
- It must be up-to-date, with all the necessary "bells and whistles" - Blu-Ray player, touch screen.
- It must be affordable.

I've been studying this problem for almost 2 years, as my current laptop got slower and buggier, and the newest laptops got more spiffy and exciting. Finally the questions all became: What operating system? It seems like that should be the last consideration, but every time I thought I had made a selection, The Alternative reared it's head. Ultimately, I found I could not make a decision - both the MacBook Pro and the Windows 8 Touchsmart had something to offer. SO - this is what I got.

- 8/13/13 - a 15-inch Toshiba for \$969 (bought by mistake!) Exchanged immediately.
- 8/13/13 - a 17-inch HP Envy for \$1094 - the display was so much brighter; the looks and feel were "better". Returned 8/24/13.
- 8/16/13 - a 13-inch [MacBook Pro](#) with Retina Display for \$2587 (including a USB Superdrive for \$80, One-to-One training for \$99, and support for \$249).
- 9/2/13 - a 15-in [HP Envy Touchsmart](#), ordered online from Costco for \$1342, including an external DVD.

What were the deciding factors? The computers at the top of the line were all comparable. What won the day for me was:

- Ease-of-travel: Will it fit in a backpack (the Mac will)? Will it fit in my computer bag (the 15-inch HP will, but not the 17-inch).
- Visual display (HP over Toshiba; Mac with Retina Display vs. without).
- Movie editing (the Mac)
- Financial and business software (Windows)
- Fun - the Mac and the Touchsmart
- Capacity - both; but, will rely on external harddrives...

The drawbacks:

- Software incompatibilities (do I need to get a Mac version and a Windows version of everything?)
- Transfer (I've decided to transfer all the other computer documents to the HP, and to start fresh with the Mac).
- Unresolved issues - where do I want to do my photo editing, and my web developing? This is far more complicated than I thought!

Unfortunate Price to Pay:

I was not able to finish Graphics Editing homework due tonight. I haven't decided

which system to install the PSE, or whether I even need to. Should I upgrade my Creative Suites software? On which computer? Meanwhile, I've transferred over 60 gigabytes of iTunes music and 50 gigabytes of video to external drives for importing into the new computers. I still have 200 gigabytes to go...

What I needed to include:

- CPU
- Motherboard (has to fit the case)
- Case and power supply (what wattage is necessary?)
- RAM
- Hard Drive (or SSD)
- Video Card
- Sound Card or external audio interface
- Optical Drive (BluRay/DVD/CD-ROM)
- Connections (USB 3.0, FireWire, Thunderbolt, etc.)
- and any other fun peripherals that you think you'll need: headphones and/or audio monitors? a special mouse? A USB Keyboard if you want to make music?

## Martha's Dream Machine - HP Windows i7

### DESCRIPTION:

15.6" DISPLAY

16GB MEMORY

1.0TB HARD DRIVE

Word Excel PowerPoint OneNote Outlook



\$1,199.99 after \$200 OFF

HP ENVY 15t Quad 1080p  
TouchSmart Laptop, Intel®  
Core™ i7-4700MQ 2.4GHz

Compare product

Rated ★★★★★ (out of 47 reviews)

Share this Product: [f](#) [t](#) [p](#) [+](#)

Item # 775576

Features:  
2GB NVIDIA GeForce GT  
740M, Beats™ audio,  
Backlit Keyboard

[Meet the new  
Windows 8](#)

Valid 7/25/13 through  
9/30/13. While supplies last.

Online Price **\$1,399.99**

Less **-\$200.00**

Your Price **\$1,199.99**

Shipping & Handling: \$29.95

### SPECS:

- 16GB DDR3 System Memory (2 Dimm)

#### Drives:

- 1TB 5400RPM Hard Drive
- External Tray Super Multi 8X DVD+/-RW w/Double Layer

#### Operating System: Microsoft® Windows 8 Pro (64-bit)

- Windows 8 is Beautiful, fast, and fluid
- Personalized: Make your Start Screen your personalized home for the things you care about. Organize and customize it the way you want
- Connected: Now everything is in one place to share. Integrate your online favorites - Facebook, Flickr, Hotmail, etc. - with content from your PC., such as photos and contacts
- Touchable: The new Windows 8 has been redesigned for touch but still works great with a mouse and keyboard

#### Graphics & Video:

- 15.6-inch diagonal Full HD BrightView LED-backlit Display (1920x1080)
- 2GB NVIDIA GeForce GT 740M

#### Communications:

- 802.11b/g/n WLAN
- Integrated 10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet LAN (RJ-45 connector)
- HP TrueVision HD Webcam with Integrated Digital Microphone

**Audio:**

- Beats™ audio

**Keyboard:**

- Backlit Keyboard

**Ports:**

- 4x SuperSpeed USB 3.0
- 1x HDMI
- 1x Headphone out/ Microphone-in combo jack
- Multi-Format Digital Media Card Reader

**Productivity Software: Microsoft® Office Home & Business 2013**

- Microsoft® Word
- Microsoft® Excel
- Microsoft® PowerPoint
- Microsoft® OneNote
- Microsoft® Outlook

**Power Supply:**

- 6-Cell Lithium-Ion Battery
- 90W AC adaptor

**Additional Information:**

- Coolsense Included: Yes
- Dimensions: 14.94" W x 9.87" D x 0.74"-1.18" H
- Weight (Approximately): 5.62 lbs.
- ENERGY STAR Qualified

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# Martha's Dream Machine - MacBook Pro with Retina Display

## The Ads

### Faster than the sum of its parts.

Powerful dual-core and quad-core processors help you fly through the most complicated technical computing tasks. Next-generation graphics let you take on GPU-intensive rendering. State-of-the-art I/O like Thunderbolt and USB 3 makes it possible to expand your workspace in a matter of seconds. And at the center of it all is an entirely flash-based architecture that makes everything you do incredibly fast and responsive. Specs like these define a whole new standard for notebook computing.



**4x Greater Bandwidth**  
With sequential read speeds up to 500 MBps, all-flash storage is up to four times faster than a traditional hard drive.<sup>1</sup>

### Now art really does imitate life.

With over 4 million pixels on the 13-inch model and over 5 million pixels on the 15-inch model, the Retina display is the perfect place to view and edit your high-resolution photos. Dot for dot, more of your image can fit on the screen — which makes editing photos far more precise. And all those pixels let you see fine details and textures like never before. In fact, the Retina display is so sharp, you can tell which photos are in focus just by looking at the thumbnails.

### Media Import into Aperture

Up to 5.8x faster than previous-generation MacBook Pro<sup>2</sup>

5.8x

MacBook Pro with Retina display

Baseline

15-inch MacBook Pro | 13-inch MacBook Pro

### All your photos. In a flash.

With two ultrafast Thunderbolt ports, two USB 3 ports, and an SDXC card slot, you can build a photo studio around MacBook Pro. Or take it with you and import thousands of RAW images on location — up to five times faster than on a standard MacBook Pro.<sup>2</sup> Once your photos are on your computer, editing in Aperture is faster and more responsive than on any notebook we've ever built. And high-speed flash storage lets you quickly browse large image libraries from internal storage. So you have instant access to any photo in your library.

## Video Editing



**A powerful notebook for powerful ideas.**

The fastest technologies, like the 2.8GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 processor and 16GB of 1600MHz memory, provide an enormous amount of computational power. And the latest GPU technology and the high-resolution Retina display allow you to visualize your data like never before. From 3D molecular modeling and DNA imaging to architectural renderings and structural analysis, MacBook Pro with Retina display lets you do things that once were possible only on a desktop computer — anywhere the job takes you.

**The Software**

# iPhoto. The best way to organize, edit, and share your photos.

iPhoto is an easy-to-use photo application that makes it fast and fun to organize and find your pictures, as well as make them look their absolute best. With features like Faces, Places, and Events, iPhoto helps you keep track of your photos by who's in them and when and where you took them — all in an immersive full-screen view. Quick and simple editing tools let you make so-so shots picture perfect with just a few clicks. Photo Stream in [iCloud](#) automatically pushes new photos to all your devices, so you're never without your latest shots.<sup>1</sup> And if you feel like showing off what you've captured, iPhoto lets you share with beautiful photo books and letterpress cards or online via Facebook and Flickr. [Learn more about iPhoto](#)

**The Specs**

- [Battery Power](#)
- [Connections](#)
- [Electrical](#)
- [Graphics and Video](#)
- [Keyboard](#)
- [Memory](#)
- [Processor](#)
- [Retina Display](#)
- [Size](#)
- [Software](#)
- [Storage](#)
- [Wireless and Audio](#)
- [Video Editing](#)

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