Regardless of size, LCD and 1920x1080p are the magic specs to look for when you shop. Settle for nothing less.

Coming Sooner Than You Think

You can put down your “to do” list. This last category isn’t for the must-have technologies of today; it’s for the coming-soon advances and works in progress that may or may not change the way we work tomorrow. In other words, they’re very cool, but experiment at your own risk.

WHAT’S NEXT Windows 7, the next operating system for Microsoft.

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE Microsoft has decreed XP as an end-of-life product and its support will end by 2010. Does that mean Vista is your future operating system? No, Microsoft seems to have conceded Vista as a failure and plans to roll out Windows 7 by fall.

WHAT’S NEXT Cloud computing, a replacement for servers, uses a virtual “machine,” housed with others in a massive, highly redundant server farm that users access online.

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE Cloud computing eliminates the cyclical spending usually associated with IT budgets, which often require sizeable capital costs every few years for new servers and software.

WHAT’S NEXT Location-based service

If you have an iPhone or smartphone device, you can be assured it knows your location better than you do, wherever you are, thanks to built-in GPS. Therefore, it also knows the closest ATM, restaurants and other businesses — such as florists — and can route you...