

technology center

Holiday Wish List

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Are you searching for a fun gift for that hard to buy for family member or friend? Check out the list below for a few ideas that may aid you in your quest.

Portable USB Hard Drive

A portable hard drive is a necessity for family members who love to download photos, music or videos. These types of files can quickly clog up the hard drive on your computer causing it to perform poorly. A couple of things to keep in mind when purchasing a portable USB hard drive: check on the software compatibility, the speed of the hard drive and the connector cable. You can purchase portable USB hard drives for as little as \$35.00 for an 80 GB hard drive to around a \$100.00 for a 1 TB.

Apple iPod Touch or iPad

For the youngsters on your gift list or the young at heart, you may wish to purchase them the Apple iPod Touch or iPad. These items offer the recipient the ability to download music, videos and movies, check e-mails, surf the Internet, take and send photos, send and receive video calls and play games. The iPad offers even more features. The iPod Touch can be carried in your pocket and weighs just 3.5 ounces; the iPad is larger at 9.5" by 7.5": and weighs about 1.5 lbs. Each can be purchased at the Apple store or your local electronics retailer. The iPod Touch will cost around \$229.00 for an 8 GB and the iPad begins at around \$499.00 for a 16 GB.

Kindle or NOOK

The Kindle is Amazon's electronic eReader, and Barnes & Noble carries the NOOK. An eReader allows you to download and read books electronically. If you have Internet access, you will be able to purchase books online, download and read them without leaving your home, office or business. Each product is comparable to the other. The Kindle can be purchased online at Amazon.com beginning at \$139.00 and you can purchase the NOOK at a local Barnes & Noble book store or online beginning at \$149.00. Each offers a wide selection of books to choose from.

Have a wonderful holiday season and I am looking forward to assisting you in 2011. Happy Holidays!

Website Note: Mark your calendars! Registration for the ISAC Spring School of Instruction will be available online beginning at 8:30 am on January 11, 2011.

Until next month, keep clicking! If you have a question regarding new technology and would like it addressed in this column, please contact me at 515-244-7181 ext. 315 or tnorman@iowacounties.org.

Don't miss it!

ISAC's 2011 Spring School of Instruction

March 23-24, 2011 Downtown Marriott and Renaissance Savery Des Moines

Visit www.iowacounties.org for more information.

Registration and hotel room blocks open at 8:30 am on Tuesday, January 11, 2011.
You must register for the conference before you can secure a hotel room.