

Copilot+ and ARM Laptops

THE QUICK VERSION

- 1 "Copilot+" is a Windows AI label — it does not tell you which chip is inside.
- 2 Some Copilot+ laptops use ARM (Snapdragon); others use regular Intel or AMD.
- 3 ARM has wonderful battery life and runs web, email, and Office beautifully.
- 4 A few older programs, games, and gadgets may not run on ARM — check yours first.
- 5 If you want everything to just work, choose an Intel or AMD model.

Stuck? Call or text Bill — real help, no rushing.

Call or text: (330) 200-8042

Book a visit: billshometech.com/book · \$99 flat first visit



Copilot+ and ARM Laptops — A Plain-English Buying Guide

A plain-English buying guide — what won't run, and who should avoid them

————— **An Extended Guide · No. 1918** —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

Bill Davis — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com · Atwater, Ohio

Book a visit — billshometech.com/book

What's Inside

Everything in this guide, with page numbers. Skip to whichever chapter answers your question right now.

The 60-Second Version	6
1. Why This Matters When Replacing a Windows 10 PC	6
2. What "Copilot+" and "ARM" Really Mean	6
3. ARM vs. Intel/AMD — The One Thing to Check	7
4. What Runs Great on ARM	7
5. What Might Not Run	8
6. Who Should Think Twice About ARM	8
7. Who ARM Suits Well	9
8. The Battery and Quiet-Fan Upside	9
9. How to Check Your Own Programs First	9
10. Reading the Spec Sheet Without Fear	10
11. Printers, Scanners, and Other Gear	10
12. Games on an ARM Laptop	11
13. If You're Not Sure — The Safe Choice	11
14. Common Worries, Answered Honestly	11
15. My Honest Take for Different Folks	12
16. How ARM Runs Older Programs	12
17. Antivirus and Security Software	13
18. VPNs and Work-From-Home Tools	13
19. Accounting and Tax Software	13
20. Design, Photo, and Video Programs	14

21. Smart-Card and Government Logins	14
22. Battery Life, Honestly	14
23. Moving Files and Your Printer Over	15
24. Setting Up a New Laptop the First Day	15
25. The AI Features You're Paying For	16
26. Intel and AMD Copilot+ — The Middle Path	16
27. A Fair ARM vs. Intel/AMD Comparison	16
28. Where to Get Honest Help Deciding	17
29. What a 'Copilot+' Sticker Really Promises	17
30. The Questions to Ask a Salesperson	18
31. Buying Online Without Getting Burned	18
32. How Much Memory and Storage You Need	18
33. Screens, Keyboards, and Comfort	19
34. Warranty and Returns	19
35. Trading In or Recycling Your Old PC	20
36. Should You Wait for Next Year's Models?	20
37. A Simple Shopping Checklist	20
38. Questions Families Ask Me	21
39. Buying It Right	21
Everyday Cheat Sheet	22
Plain-English Word List	22
A Picture to Follow Along	24
A Second Look	25

A Note From Bill 25

Your Visit — and My Promise 26

SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

In a hurry? Here is the whole decision on one page.

- "Copilot+" is just a Windows AI label — it does not tell you which chip is inside.
- Some Copilot+ laptops use ARM (Snapdragon) chips; others use regular Intel or AMD.
- ARM laptops have wonderful battery life and run cool and quiet.
- ARM runs web, email, and Office beautifully, but a few older programs and gadgets may not.
- If you rely on special software or an old printer or scanner, check it before you buy.
- If you want to be sure everything just works, choose an Intel or AMD model instead.

TIP

The one question to ask the salesperson: "Is this an ARM or Snapdragon chip, or Intel or AMD?" If you have unusual software or gear, Intel or AMD is the safe bet.

1. Why This Matters When Replacing a Windows 10 PC

Microsoft stopped giving free security updates to Windows 10 in October 2025, so a lot of folks are shopping for a new laptop. That is a fine and sensible thing to do.

But the store shelf looks different than it did a few years ago. Alongside the familiar laptops, you will now see ones labeled "Copilot+" and some that run a new kind of chip. Picking the wrong one can mean a program you depend on will not install.

GOOD TO KNOW

This guide is not here to scare you off. It is here so you walk into the store knowing the one question that matters, and walk out with a laptop that runs everything you need.

2. What "Copilot+" and "ARM" Really Mean

Two words cause most of the confusion, so let me define them simply.

Copilot+

This is a Microsoft label for newer Windows laptops that have extra hardware for artificial-intelligence features. It is a sticker about capabilities — it does not, by itself, tell you what chip is inside.

ARM (and Snapdragon)

This is a kind of processor — the brain of the laptop. Many Copilot+ laptops use an ARM chip called Snapdragon, made by a company named Qualcomm. ARM chips are very efficient, which is why the battery lasts so long.

WATCH OUT

Here is the trap: people assume "Copilot+" means "ARM." It does not. Some Copilot+ laptops use ordinary Intel or AMD chips. Always ask which chip, not just whether it is Copilot+.

3. ARM vs. Intel/AMD — The One Thing to Check

For thirty years, nearly every Windows program was written for Intel and AMD chips. ARM is the newcomer, and that is the heart of the compatibility question.

- Intel and AMD chips run essentially every Windows program ever made.
- ARM chips run most programs, and copy many others through a clever translation.
- That translation covers a lot — but not quite everything.

So the single thing to check is whether the particular programs and gadgets you rely on work on ARM. For most everyday users the answer is yes. For a few, it is no — and those folks should choose Intel or AMD.

TIP

If your computer life is web browsing, email, photos, and Microsoft Word, an ARM laptop will likely delight you. The cautions below are for people with special programs or equipment.

4. What Runs Great on ARM

Let me start with the good news, because it covers what most people actually do all day. These work well on an ARM laptop.

- Web browsers — Microsoft Edge and Google Chrome.
- Email, including Outlook and web-based mail.
- Microsoft 365 — Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook.
- Video calls — Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and FaceTime through the web.
- Streaming — Netflix, YouTube, Prime Video, and the like.
- Online banking and shopping in the browser.

GOOD TO KNOW

If that list is basically your whole computer life — and for many folks it is — an ARM laptop gives you all of it plus all-day battery and a quiet, cool machine.

5. What Might Not Run

Now the honest cautions. These are the categories where an ARM laptop can trip up, because the translation does not cover them.

- Older or specialized programs that were never updated for ARM.
- Software that installs deep "drivers," like some security and VPN tools.
- Many PC games, especially ones with anti-cheat protection.
- Professional design and engineering tools, such as certain CAD programs.
- Drivers for specialized gadgets — some printers, scanners, and audio equipment.
- Smart-card readers used by some government and medical workers.

WATCH OUT

The tricky part is that a program may install and then misbehave, rather than refusing outright. That is why checking in advance beats finding out after you have bought the laptop.

6. Who Should Think Twice About ARM

Pull these threads together and a clear picture emerges of who should be cautious with an ARM laptop — or simply choose Intel or AMD instead.

- Anyone who depends on one specific older program for work or a hobby.
- Serious PC gamers, especially of online games with anti-cheat systems.
- People who use design, drafting, accounting, or engineering software.
- Folks with an older printer, scanner, or special gadget they must keep using.
- Anyone whose job requires a government or medical smart-card login.

If you are in one of these groups, it does not mean ARM is bad — it means you must confirm your specific software and gear first, or play it safe with Intel or AMD.

7. Who ARM Suits Well

On the flip side, ARM laptops are a genuinely lovely choice for a great many people. You may be exactly who they were made for.

- You mostly browse the web, email, and use Office or Google Docs.
- You value a laptop that lasts all day on a charge.
- You dislike a noisy fan and a hot machine on your lap.
- You want something light to carry to the kitchen table or on a trip.
- You do not rely on unusual programs or old specialty gadgets.

GOOD TO KNOW

For a reader, a writer, a web-and-email user, or someone helping a parent stay in touch, an ARM Copilot+ laptop can be the nicest computer they have owned.

8. The Battery and Quiet-Fan Upside

It is only fair to dwell on why ARM laptops exist and why people love them, because the benefits are real.

- Battery life is excellent — often a full working day or more on one charge.
- They run cool, so no hot spot on your lap.
- Many have no fan at all, so they are silent.
- They wake up instantly, the way a phone or tablet does.

These are not small things. For everyday use, long battery and silence genuinely improve the daily experience of using the machine.

9. How to Check Your Own Programs First

Before you spend money, you can find out whether the programs you care about run on ARM. It is easier than it sounds.

- 1 Make a short list of the programs and gadgets you truly cannot do without.
- 2 Search online for the program's name plus the words "Windows on ARM."
- 3 Look on the maker's own website for a note about ARM or Snapdragon support.
- 4 For a printer or scanner, check the maker's site for an ARM or Windows 11 driver.
- 5 If you cannot find a clear yes, treat it as a no and lean toward Intel or AMD.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are free community lists online that track which programs run on Windows on ARM. If you would rather not wade through them, read me your short list over the phone and I will check it with you.

10. Reading the Spec Sheet Without Fear

The little sheet of specifications on the shelf can look like alphabet soup. Here is how to find the one line that matters.

- Look for the processor, sometimes called the "chip" or "CPU."
- "Snapdragon" or "Qualcomm" means it is an ARM laptop.
- "Intel Core" or "AMD Ryzen" means it is the traditional kind.
- "Copilot+" may appear next to either — remember, it is not the chip.

WATCH OUT

You do not need to understand the numbers and model names. You only need to spot whether it says Snapdragon (ARM) or Intel/AMD. That one word guides your decision.

11. Printers, Scanners, and Other Gear

Your laptop has to get along with the equipment you already own, and this is a common sticking point with ARM, so it earns its own page.

- Most current, popular printers work fine, often through the maker's app.
- Older printers and scanners may lack an ARM driver and refuse to connect.
- Specialty gear — label makers, audio interfaces, medical devices — is hit or miss.
- When in doubt, check the maker's website for a Windows 11 ARM driver before buying.

WATCH OUT

If keeping a particular older printer or scanner is non-negotiable for you, that alone can be a good reason to choose an Intel or AMD laptop, which almost always has a driver available.

12. Games on an ARM Laptop

If someone in the house plays PC games, this deserves a clear word. ARM has made progress here, but it is still the weak spot.

- Simple and casual games generally play fine.
- Big-name online games with anti-cheat protection often will not run.
- Graphics performance trails a comparable Intel or AMD gaming laptop.
- Newer ARM chips are improving, but gaming is not their strength.

GOOD TO KNOW

For solitaire, puzzle games, and browser games, ARM is perfectly fine. For serious gaming, choose a laptop built for it — which usually means Intel or AMD with a dedicated graphics chip.

13. If You're Not Sure — The Safe Choice

Sometimes you simply cannot be certain what you will need a year from now. When that is the case, there is a clear, low-worry answer.

Choose a laptop with an Intel Core or AMD Ryzen chip. It runs everything a Windows PC has ever run, every printer has a driver, and you will never be caught out by a program that refuses to install.

- You trade away some battery life and a little quiet.
- You gain the peace of mind that everything just works.
- Many stores sell the very same laptop design in both ARM and Intel versions.

TIP

There is no shame in the safe choice. For a once-every-several-years purchase that has to do its job without fuss, Intel or AMD is a perfectly good decision.

14. Common Worries, Answered Honestly

The same questions come up when folks shop for a new laptop. Here are straight answers.

Is an ARM laptop a bad computer?

Not at all. It is an excellent computer for web, email, and Office, with superb battery life. It is only a poor fit for a few special programs and older gadgets.

Will Microsoft Word and my email work?

Yes. Microsoft 365 and all common email run well on ARM.

How do I even tell which one I'm looking at?

Find the chip name on the spec sheet. Snapdragon or Qualcomm means ARM; Intel Core or AMD Ryzen means the traditional kind.

What if I buy the wrong one?

Most stores allow returns within a window. Keep the receipt, and test your important programs in the first few days.

15. My Honest Take for Different Folks

People ask me to just tell them what to buy. Here is what I actually recommend, depending on who you are.

- Web, email, and Office only: an ARM Copilot+ laptop will likely be a joy — great battery, quiet.
- You have one must-have older program: check it first, or choose Intel or AMD to be safe.
- You keep an older printer or scanner: Intel or AMD avoids driver headaches.
- Someone games seriously: a proper Intel or AMD gaming laptop, not ARM.
- You simply want no surprises: Intel or AMD runs everything, full stop.

TIP

When two of these describe you, let your most important program or gadget break the tie. If it runs on ARM, enjoy the battery life. If you are unsure, Intel or AMD is the no-worry road.

16. How ARM Runs Older Programs

You may wonder how an ARM laptop runs programs built for the old Intel world at all. The answer is a clever built-in translator.

Windows quietly translates many older programs on the fly so they run on the new chip. Most of the time you never notice. But the translation does not cover everything, which is the source of the cautions in this guide.

GOOD TO KNOW

Think of it like a very good interpreter. It handles most conversations smoothly, but a few specialized terms get lost — and that is where a program may stumble on ARM.

17. Antivirus and Security Software

Security programs reach deep into Windows, so they are one of the areas where ARM support matters and you should check before you rely on a particular one.

- Windows comes with its own built-in protection, which works fine on ARM.
- Many well-known security brands now have ARM versions — but not all.
- An older security program you have paid for may not run on ARM.

GOOD TO KNOW

Honestly, the free protection built into Windows is plenty for most home users on any chip. You rarely need to buy a separate security program at all.

18. VPNs and Work-From-Home Tools

If you connect to a workplace from home, the tools that make that connection are another spot to check, because some reach deep into Windows.

- Common video and chat tools like Teams and Zoom run well on ARM.
- Some workplace VPN programs have ARM versions; others do not yet.
- If your job gave you specific software, ask their help desk about ARM first.

WATCH OUT

If you must use a particular work program and cannot confirm it runs on ARM, that alone is a good reason to choose an Intel or AMD laptop instead.

19. Accounting and Tax Software

Money programs are important to get right, and they vary in how well they run on ARM, so this deserves a careful check.

- Web-based accounting and tax services run fine, since they live in the browser.
- Installed programs you keep year to year may or may not have an ARM version.
- Check the maker's website for an ARM or Windows 11 note before you switch.

TIP

If you rely on a specific installed tax or bookkeeping program each year, confirm it supports ARM — or lean toward Intel or AMD to be safe.

20. Design, Photo, and Video Programs

Creative and professional tools are a mixed bag on ARM. Some of the biggest names now have ARM versions; many specialty programs do not.

- Mainstream photo and light editing tools increasingly run on ARM.
- Heavy professional design, drafting, and video tools may need an Intel or AMD machine.
- Older creative software you have owned for years is the riskiest.

GOOD TO KNOW

If photo touch-ups and simple projects are your speed, ARM is fine. For serious professional creative work, Intel or AMD remains the safer, better-supported path.

21. Smart-Card and Government Logins

Some folks — federal workers, contractors, and certain medical staff — log in with a plastic smart card. This is a known trouble spot on ARM.

The readers and their software often do not list ARM support, so a Snapdragon laptop can be the wrong choice if your work depends on one.

WATCH OUT

If you use a government or medical smart-card login, confirm ARM support with your IT department before buying — or simply choose Intel or AMD.

22. Battery Life, Honestly

The headline reason to want an ARM laptop is battery life, and it is a real, meaningful advantage over most traditional laptops.

- Many ARM laptops last a full working day or more on one charge.
- They wake instantly and sip power when idle, like a phone.
- Exact hours depend on what you are doing — video uses more than reading.

TIP

If you are forever hunting for an outlet, the battery life alone can make an ARM laptop worth it — provided your programs run on it.

23. Moving Files and Your Printer Over

Whatever chip you choose, the new laptop needs your files, photos, and printer brought across from the old one. It is very doable.

- 1 Back up the old PC's files to a drive or cloud first — always back up before a move.
- 2 Sign into the same accounts on the new laptop to pull photos and email across.
- 3 Copy your documents and photos over from the backup or cloud.
- 4 Add your printer — on ARM, get the printer from the maker's app or website.
- 5 Keep the old PC until the new one is fully working, just in case.

GOOD TO KNOW

Moving to a new computer is one of the most common visits I make. I will carry your files, photos, passwords, and printer over so nothing is left behind.

24. Setting Up a New Laptop the First Day

A calm first day sets you up for years of happy use. Here is the order I would follow with any new Windows laptop.

- 1 Unbox, plug in, and let it charge while you start.
- 2 Follow the setup screens; a local or Microsoft account are both fine choices.
- 3 Let it finish its first round of updates before you do much else.
- 4 Install your handful of must-have programs and test each one.
- 5 Bring your files and printer across, then set your comfort settings.

WATCH OUT

Do not rush the first day. Let the updates finish and test your important programs early, while you are still inside the store's return window.

25. The AI Features You're Paying For

Since these are "Copilot+" laptops, it is fair to ask what the AI features actually are and whether they matter to you.

- A built-in Copilot assistant can answer questions and help with writing.
- Some photo and drawing tools can tidy or create images.
- Live captions can put on-screen words to spoken audio in real time.

GOOD TO KNOW

These features are pleasant extras, not reasons to overspend. Buy the laptop for how well it runs your real programs first; treat the AI as a bonus.

26. Intel and AMD Copilot+ — The Middle Path

Here is a point many shoppers miss: you can get the Copilot+ AI features on a traditional Intel or AMD chip, not only on ARM.

That gives you the best of both worlds — the new AI features plus the rock-solid compatibility of the chips that have always run Windows. The trade is somewhat shorter battery life than ARM.

TIP

If you want the new AI features but worry about an old program, look for an Intel Core Ultra or AMD Copilot+ laptop. You get the features without the compatibility gamble.

27. A Fair ARM vs. Intel/AMD Comparison

Here is the honest side-by-side to settle it at a glance.

What matters	ARM (Snapdragon)	Intel / AMD
Battery life	Excellent	Good
Fan noise / heat	Quiet, cool	More
Runs every program	Most	Essentially all
Old printers & gear	Check first	Almost always
Serious gaming	Weak	Strong

Peace of mind	Check your apps	Just works
---------------	-----------------	------------

Read down the column that fits you. If your needs are simple and battery matters, ARM shines. If you have special programs or gear, Intel or AMD is the safe road.

28. Where to Get Honest Help Deciding

You do not have to make this choice alone, and you should not let a commissioned salesperson rush you into the wrong one.

- Write down the programs and gadgets you truly cannot do without.
- Ask the one question: ARM/Snapdragon, or Intel/AMD?
- If anyone pressures you, slow down — a laptop will still be there tomorrow.

GOOD TO KNOW

Read me your short list over the phone and I will tell you plainly whether ARM will suit you, or whether Intel or AMD is the safer buy. No charge for a quick question — that is what neighbors are for.

29. What a 'Copilot+' Sticker Really Promises

That shiny Copilot+ label is doing a lot of work in the store, so let me tell you exactly what it does and does not mean for you.

What it does mean

- The laptop has special hardware for artificial-intelligence features.
- It meets Microsoft's bar for those AI tricks to run on the machine itself.

What it does not mean

- It does not tell you whether the chip is ARM or Intel/AMD.
- It does not promise that every one of your programs will run.
- It is not, by itself, a reason to pay more.

WATCH OUT

Never let a Copilot+ sticker substitute for the one real question: which chip is inside? That single fact matters far more than the label.

30. The Questions to Ask a Salesperson

A good salesperson will welcome clear questions. These are the ones that actually protect you, in plain words you can read right off this page.

- 1 "Is this an ARM or Snapdragon chip, or is it Intel or AMD?"
- 2 "Will my specific program" — name it — "run on this laptop?"
- 3 "Will my printer" — name it — "work with this laptop?"
- 4 "What is your return window if something won't run?"
- 5 "Is there an Intel or AMD version of this same laptop?"

TIP

If a salesperson cannot or will not answer the chip question, that is your sign to slow down. The answer is printed on the spec sheet — ask to see it.

31. Buying Online Without Getting Burned

Plenty of folks buy a laptop online, and that is fine if you read the listing carefully. A few habits keep you safe.

- Find the processor line and confirm Snapdragon (ARM) or Intel/AMD.
- Read recent buyer reviews for mentions of programs that did not work.
- Buy from a seller with a clear, generous return policy.
- Save the order confirmation so you can return it if needed.

WATCH OUT

A price that seems too good to be true, from a seller you have never heard of, often is. Stick with well-known stores, and never wire money or pay in gift cards for a laptop.

32. How Much Memory and Storage You Need

Two numbers on the spec sheet trip people up: memory and storage. Here is what they mean and how much is sensible, on any chip.

Term	What it is	Sensible amount
Memory (RAM)	Short-term work space	16 GB is comfortable
Storage (SSD)	Where files are kept	512 GB for most folks

You do not need the biggest numbers on the shelf. For web, email, photos, and Office, the amounts above leave plenty of room and keep the laptop feeling quick.

GOOD TO KNOW

More memory helps the laptop stay smooth with several things open at once. If you are choosing between spending on memory or on a fancier screen, memory usually does more for everyday comfort.

33. Screens, Keyboards, and Comfort

The parts you touch and look at all day matter as much as the chip inside. A few comfort points are worth checking in the store.

- A screen around 14 to 16 inches suits most people for home use.
- A matte, non-glare screen is easier on the eyes near a window.
- Type a few sentences on the keyboard to be sure it feels good to you.
- A touchscreen is a nice extra but not essential.

TIP

Spend two minutes actually typing and looking at the screen before you buy. Comfort is personal, and it is the thing you will notice every single day.

34. Warranty and Returns

A laptop is a multi-year purchase, so the paperwork around it is worth a moment, especially when you are testing whether your programs run.

- Know the return window and keep your receipt and the box.
- A standard one-year warranty comes with most laptops.
- Decide whether an extended warranty is worth it for you — often it is not.
- Register the laptop with the maker so support is simple later.

GOOD TO KNOW

The return window is your safety net while you test your important programs in the first few days. That is the time to find out whether ARM suits you — not months later.

35. Trading In or Recycling Your Old PC

Once the new laptop is working, the old Windows 10 machine needs a safe sendoff. Do not just toss it in the trash — it holds your personal information.

- 1 Make sure everything you want is copied to the new laptop first.
- 2 Sign out of your accounts on the old PC.
- 3 Erase the old PC properly so your files cannot be recovered.
- 4 Trade it in, donate it, or recycle it at a proper electronics drop-off.
- 5 Never put a computer in the regular trash — it is both unsafe and often against the rules.

WATCH OUT

Wiping a PC properly is easy to get wrong, and your personal files are at stake. If you are unsure, let me erase it for you before it leaves the house.

36. Should You Wait for Next Year's Models?

It is a fair question, since there is always something newer around the corner. Here is my honest take on timing.

- If your Windows 10 PC still works, you have a little breathing room to choose well.
- ARM laptops improve each year, especially for the few rough spots like gaming.
- But waiting forever means missing out on a good machine you could enjoy now.

There is no perfect moment. If you need a reliable laptop today, buy a good one today. If your current PC is limping along safely, there is no harm in taking a few weeks to decide.

WATCH OUT

Do not let the fear of missing next year's model keep you on an unsupported, unsafe Windows 10 machine. Safety beats chasing the newest chip.

37. A Simple Shopping Checklist

Bring this page to the store or keep it beside you while you shop online. It is the whole guide boiled down to a short list.

- Decide: do I need Intel or AMD for safety, or will ARM suit me?
- Confirm the chip on the spec sheet matches that decision.
- Check my must-have programs and printer are supported.
- Make sure there is enough memory and storage.

- Try the keyboard and screen for comfort.
- Confirm the return window and keep the receipt.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you can tick every box on this list, you are ready to buy with confidence — and you will not get talked into the wrong machine.

38. Questions Families Ask Me

Here are the questions I hear most from folks shopping for a new laptop, with my plain answers.

Is the cheaper ARM one a trap?

Not a trap — a great fit for web, email, and Office, with superb battery. It is only wrong if you have a special program or old gadget that needs Intel or AMD.

How do I even tell which is which?

Find the chip name on the spec sheet. Snapdragon or Qualcomm means ARM; Intel Core or AMD Ryzen means the traditional kind.

Can you just come with me or check it over the phone?

Gladly. Read me your short list of programs and gadgets and I will tell you which chip to buy — that is what neighbors are for.

39. Buying It Right

Once you know what fits, a calm trip to the store or a careful online order gets you a laptop you will be happy with. Here is the order I would follow.

- 1 Write your short list of must-have programs and gadgets before you shop.
- 2 Decide: do you need Intel or AMD for safety, or will ARM suit you?
- 3 On the spec sheet, confirm the chip matches your decision.
- 4 Check the return window and keep your receipt.
- 5 In the first few days, install and test everything on your list.
- 6 If anything will not run, return it in the window and switch chip types.

GOOD TO KNOW

Buying a new laptop is exactly the kind of thing I am happy to help with. Tell me what you use the computer for, and I will help you pick the right chip, set it up, and move your files and printer over — at your pace, no jargon.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy while you shop.

I want to...	Do this
Know which chip it uses	Find Snapdragon/Qualcomm (ARM) or Intel/AMD on the spec sheet
Get great battery and quiet	An ARM (Snapdragon) laptop
Run every program and gadget	An Intel or AMD laptop
Check my program works on ARM	Search its name plus "Windows on ARM"
Keep an older printer	Lean toward Intel or AMD
Game seriously	Intel or AMD with a graphics chip, not ARM
Play it safe	Intel Core or AMD Ryzen
Get help choosing	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

WORDS TO KNOW

Plain-English Word List

Copilot+ — A Microsoft label for newer Windows laptops with extra AI hardware — not a chip.

ARM — A newer, efficient kind of processor; great battery, but a few old programs may not run.

Snapdragon — The name of the ARM chips, made by Qualcomm, found in many Copilot+ laptops.

Intel / AMD — The traditional Windows chips that run essentially every PC program ever made.

Driver — A small piece of software that lets Windows talk to a gadget like a printer.

Emulation — The clever translation that lets ARM laptops run many programs built for Intel/AMD.

Processor (CPU) — The brain of the computer — the chip that does the work.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Two Kinds of Copilot+ PC

"Copilot+" is a label, not one chip.

ARM (Snapdragon)	Intel / AMD	Both are
Great battery Quiet, cool Runs most apps A few won't run Check yours first	Classic chips Runs everything a PC always did Shorter battery Safest for odd software	"Copilot+" Same Windows 11 Same AI features The chip inside is what differs Ask before buying

A Copilot+ sticker does not tell you which chip is inside — ask.

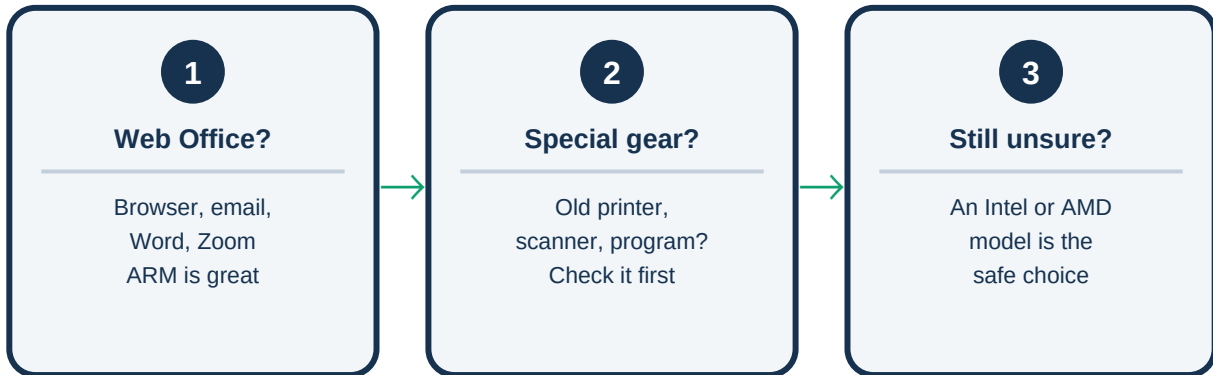
Illustration — layout and details vary by model. Check your own device.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Is ARM Right for You?

Match the laptop to how you really use it.



When in doubt, Intel or AMD runs everything a PC always has.

Illustration — layout and details vary by model. Check your own device.

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.