

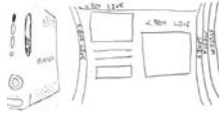
Phillip's
Simple Guide
to
Video Game Consoles



Introduction

It's always hard to pick out the best product when deciding amongst expensive things such as video game consoles. This is a simple guide to the major consoles that will be competing for the attention of every gamer out there. It holds information on features each console offers, just perfect for deciding which one to buy to surprise a loved one.

Microsoft's Xbox 360



- Currently comes in 3 packages of Arcade (\$199.99), Premium (\$299), and Elite (\$399.99)
- Each package comes with a wireless controller though the controller comes in a wired form as well, headset included in the Premium and Elite Packages
- Internal hard drive for saving game data, though the one in the Arcade Package is severely low
- Connects to the internet via Ethernet cord for online play and downloadable content, requires a fee to use
- Can play most Xbox, Microsoft's console before this one, games; this feature is not in Arcade Package version of the Xbox 360
- Can also play CDs and DVDs

Having been released about a year earlier than the other major home consoles, Microsoft had a head start with its competition. The Xbox 360 boasts a large library of games. Although it is best known for its action and shooting games, this system has done a good job of acquiring a large spread of a wide variety of games. There has been concern over the failure rate of the game system, most notably called the "Red Ring of Death" on the internet. But a 3 year warranty is included with the consoles and the console can be sent back for repairs.

Sony's Playstation 3 (PS3)

- Comes in a variety of versions with different size of hard drives and backward capabilities with older PlayStation games, ranges from \$399.99 to \$599.99
- Packaged with a wireless controller
- All versions come with an internal hard drive to store game data
- Connects to the internet via wifi or Ethernet cord, according to version, for online play and purchase of downloadable content
- Depending on version, it can or cannot play all, most, or no PlayStation 2 games; check the packaging box very carefully before purchasing
- Takes advantage of HD TVs for better graphics
- Can also play CDs, DVDs, and Blu-ray

This is the most expensive home console and had many discontinued and currently manufactured versions with no official names to differentiate them. It was also widely criticized when first released for not having many quality game titles available but a lot of games have been released since then. This is the most powerful system and has been remarked to have the most potential of the three.

Sony's Playstation Portable (PSP)

- Costs around \$199.99
- Comes in multiple versions, including the Lite and Slim versions
- Needs a memory card (sold separately) to save game data, as well as music
- Play games and movies that are sold in UMD format, they look like disc in plastic
- Connects wirelessly to other Sony home consoles, PSPs, and the internet

The PSP is the most successfully non-Nintendo portable gaming system. The PSP has a wide screen, which has been enhanced in newer versions. With its many different accessories, it can cover many different areas of media though at a price.

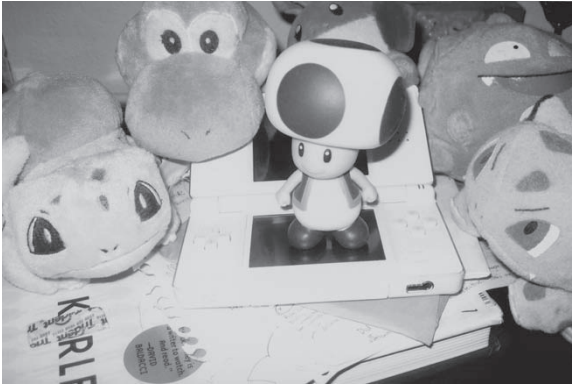
Nintendo's Wii

Wii

- Cheapest current home gaming console at around \$249.99
- Packaged with a wireless controller, called "Wii-mote" and sensor bar
- The sensor tells the console where you're pointing the controller, some games require shaking and moving the controller in a certain way
- Internal hard drive saves game data
- Connects to internet via wifi for online store and online play for certain games
- Plays all Gamecube games, which is Nintendo's previous home console

The Wii is best known for being extremely interactive, with many games that take advantage of the sensor and the remote itself. Nintendo aimed towards a more general audience with this console and they have succeeded, as the Wii is still selling really well. Additional accessories that are needed comes packaged with the games they are used in, making things more simple.

Nintendo's DS, DS Lite, and DSi



DS

- Comes in DS and DS Lite versions
- Two screens, the bottom screen is a touch screen
- Game Data are saved in game cartridges themselves
- Backwards capability with older Nintendo handheld system, Gameboy Advance
- Connects to Wii, other DS, and the internet wirelessly

The DS is Nintendo's newest handheld console, it has a wide variety of games with many of them taking advantage of the touch screen.

