When purchasing a hard drive, it is important to understand and verify the hard drive is suitable for your uses and has the advantages of each. You can also check out this brief guide, which includes some file size examples for estimating your capacity requirements: 

- **External Hard Drives**: Modern external hard drives are often used for backup and storage, and they are generally more affordable than SSDs.
- **Internal Hard Drives**: Internal hard drives are used in desktops, laptops, and servers. They are faster than external hard drives but can be more expensive.
- **Solid State Drives (SSDs)**: SSDs are faster than hard drives but can be more expensive. They are often used in high-performance systems.

### SSD Drive Buying Guide: Crucial.com

The traditional HDD that you buy and install in a desktop PC, or in place of a hard drive in a laptop, uses what's known as the "2.5-inch drive" form factor. (In actuality, the drives are about 2.5 inches thick.) SSDs use the "0.5-inch drive" form factor, and they are much faster than traditional HDDs. SSDs are much faster because they use flash memory and not magnetic media to store data. SSDs are also much quieter and consume less power than HDDs.

### How to Choose the Best Hard Drive and Storage for Desktop PCs

- **Factors to Consider**
  - **Price**: Consider your budget and the purpose of the drive.
  - **Performance**: Choose a drive with the right speed and latency for your needs.
  - **Reliability**: Look for drives with good error correction and data recovery capabilities.
  - **Capacity**: Choose a drive with enough storage for your needs.
  - **Interface**: Decide on the interface type that best suits your system (SATA, NVMe, etc.).

### External Hard Drive Buying Guide: 6 Things to Know Before Buying New One

1. **Capacity**: The most crucial aspect you really need to know before selecting a hard drive reference to is the storage capacity. SSDs are a solid-state drive and is more powerful, but of course will cost more money to run and purchase.
2. **Compatibility**: The technical aspect you have to consider the most when choosing an external hard drive is compatibility. 

### Best Computer Buying Guide - Consumer Reports

In general, Consumer Reports recommends solid-state drives over hard drives. Hard Drives Also known as a hard disk, this type of drive uses a spinning hard disk and uses more power than a solid-state drive. SSDs use flash memory to store data, which is much faster and more power-efficient than the magnetic platters used in hard drives. SSDs are more expensive than hard drives, but they offer faster read and write speeds and lower power consumption. SSDs are also less prone to mechanical failures than hard drives.

### How to Buy the Right SS'D: A Guide for 2020 | Tom's Hardware

- **SSD Storage Requirements**: SSDs require more power than HDDs. SSDs also require more careful handling, as they are not designed to withstand shock and vibration. SSDs are also more susceptible to data corruption and loss.

### How to Choose an External Hard Drive | Digital Trends

- **Capacity**: Choose a drive with enough storage for your needs. SSDs are faster, but they are also more expensive. USB 3.0 drives are a good choice for most users, as they are fast and compatible with most modern computers.

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### Conclusion

Buying a hard drive can be a daunting task, but by considering the factors mentioned above and doing your research, you can choose the right hard drive for your needs. Whether you opt for an SSD or an HDD, make sure to choose a drive that meets your capacity requirements and performs well in your specific use case.