

- Gaming Systems
- Questions to Ask

CONSOLE GAMING SYSTEMS – LOOKING BACK TO THE FUTURE

Presently, there are only three manufacturers making console gaming systems, if you don't take into account the new retro gaming market. With that in mind, you would think that identifying a replacement gaming system would be simple, but ultimately it may not be as easy as it would seem. Sometimes the obvious or easy choice is not necessarily the right choice. In this article, we'll provide an overview of past and current systems from the various manufacturers, look at whether the current systems can play games from the older systems and itemize some of the options available for each system. This information should assist you in making the right decision when selecting a current replacement model.

Microsoft Xbox

Microsoft gaming systems centre around the Xbox name. The original Xbox was released in 2001. It was followed by the Xbox 360 in 2005 and Xbox One, the current system, in 2014.

- The Xbox 360 and Xbox One have been offered with various memory capacities ranging from 4 GB to 1 TB (1,000 GB).
- The Xbox 360 and Xbox One have been offered as a Kinect bundle. The Kinect is essentially a motion sensor that allows a person to put down the controller and play games using body, voice or gestures. It can even command a person's TV and make Skype calls.
- The Xbox One is a backwards-compatible system, as it allows a person to play select Xbox 360 and original Xbox games.
- Controllers and accessories that work with Xbox 360 won't work with Xbox One and vice versa.

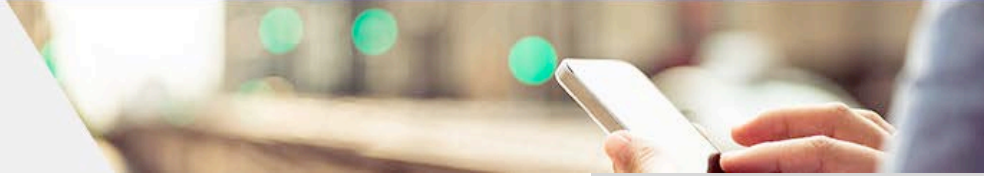


TECH TIP

If the replacement game system is not backwards compatible, the best replacement option may be a retro gaming system or using the last selling price new of the original gaming system since the new model does not share the ability to play the original game titles

TECH TIP

Retro gaming systems offer a great option for replacing very old gaming systems



Sony PlayStation

Sony has based their systems on the PlayStation (PS) name. Their original gaming system is the PlayStation (PS1), which was released in 1994. This was followed by the PlayStation 2 (PS2) in 2000, the PlayStation 3 (PS3) in 2006, the PlayStation 4 (PS4) in 2014 and the PlayStation 4 Pro (PS4 Pro), an upgraded PS4 system, in 2016.

- The PlayStations 3 and 4 have been offered with various memory capacities ranging from 20 GB to 1 TB (1,000 GB).
- Sony has added Virtual Reality (VR) as an option for the PlayStation 4.
- The PlayStation 4 is not backwards compatible; it will not play games from any of the previous systems. That's the situation as it stands, but Sony has said that in the future things will be different.
- Previous controllers are not compatible with the PlayStation 4 gaming system.



TECH TIP

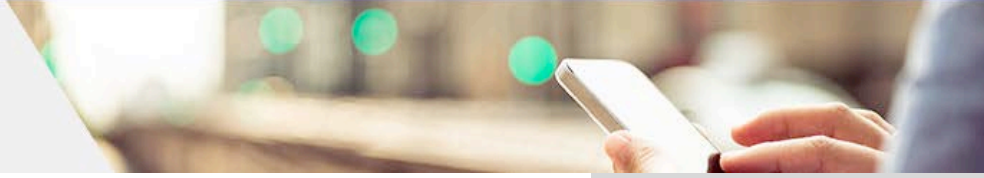
The size of the hard drive in the original system may dictate the replacement model

Nintendo

Unlike Microsoft and Sony, Nintendo has changed the name of their gaming system over the years. The original system, which was released in 1985, was named NES. In 1991, this system was replaced by the Super NES (SNES). In 1996, the N64 was released, and then in 2001, the N64 was replaced by the GameCube. In 2006, the Wii was released, and in 2012, a stripped-down revision known as the Wii Mini was released. Interestingly, the Wii Mini was only sold in Canada. The upgraded Wii U was also released in 2012, and it was the



tech talk



Nintendo console to support high-definition (HD) graphics. In 2017, Nintendo's current gaming system, the Switch, was released.

- While the Wii U was a backwards-compatible system, the Switch is an all-new way to play and does not include backwards compatibility.
- Controllers from previous Nintendo platforms are not supported by the Switch gaming system.

This article is designed to provide you with an overview of questions for some of the most popular gaming systems.

If you would like to receive expert help in developing a specific strategy for addressing this subject please contact the author Keith Green at 613-233-1508