



Unit 11 — Components

Reading: Computer Hardware Components

Due to convergence, the traditional categories we divide computing into are blurring. But for practical reasons, IT professionals can still divide hardware into two main classes: components and peripherals.

Components are primarily core internal devices of a computer which help define what type a computer is, what it is capable of doing, and how well it is capable of doing it. Nothing affects the overall quality of a computer more than its components.

Normally the more expensive a component is, the better it performs. This is a general guideline however and not a steadfast rule. Sometimes you can spend a lot more money on a component with only slightly better performance than one costing half as much. Other times a very expensive component might be based on a completely new technology that is not ready for mass production. In these cases, one is often better off buying a more mainstream part.

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Discussion Questions

What components are in your computer right now? Make a list of them. If you can't take your computer apart, look up the model number on the Web.

If you could upgrade any three components inside your computer, which ones would you replace and why?

Imagine you are a system administrator and your manager is asking you to spec a new workstation for some game testers. Your budget is \$2,500 per workstation, not including the monitor. What components would you spec?