

PC Basics

Get a Great Start

You learned how to swim. You learned how to ride a bike.
Now you're going to learn how to use a computer. It's that simple.

**The best way to learn
about PC Basics**

**Additional Online
learning included!**

**Interactive CD-ROM
included!**

Poway, CA 92064

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- ◆ A motherboard
- ◆ A central processing unit (CPU)
- ◆ Memory cards
- ◆ Storage devices
- ◆ A power supply

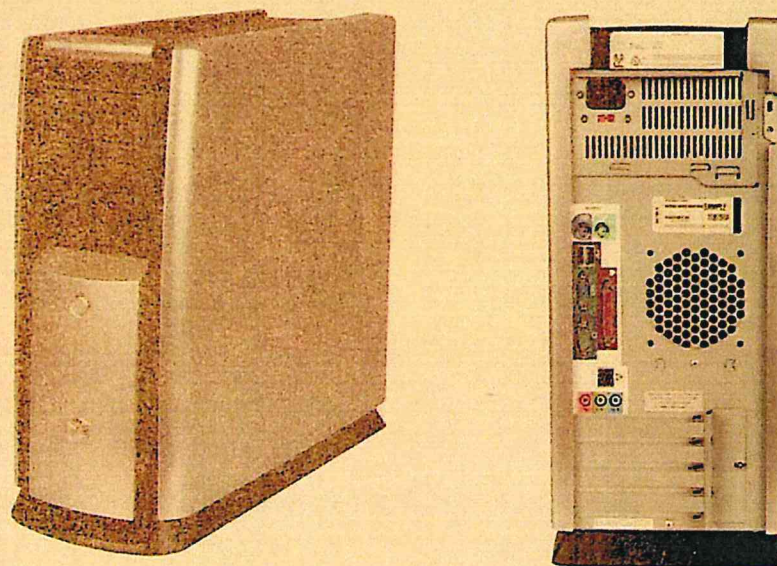


Figure 1-12 A typical system unit, from the front, side, and back.



You may encounter references to a system unit as “the CPU” (an abbreviation for *central processing unit*). This is technically incorrect, however, because the term *CPU* identifies only the main processor chip on a PC’s motherboard—not the whole system unit.

type of CPU and memory card.

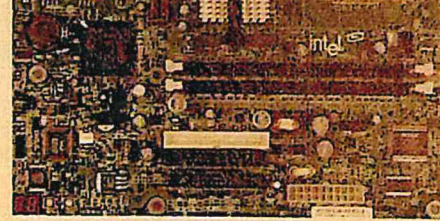


Figure 1-13 A typical motherboard.

More About . . . Motherboards

Every motherboard is different; each is designed to work with only a few specific CPUs and memory cards. Some motherboards support several types of memory, whereas most support only one type. Some motherboards can accommodate two or four CPUs, but most support only one. A motherboard that supports Intel CPUs does not support AMD CPUs, because each type of CPU uses different connectors. When you purchase a motherboard, CPU, or memory upgrade, make sure all such components are compatible.

CPU

The *central processing unit (CPU)* is the core component in a PC (see Figure 1-14).

Sometimes referred to as the “brain” of the computer, the CPU interprets and carries out instructions, performs all computations, and controls the devices connected to the PC. There are a variety of CPUs available on the market. A well-known company is Intel®, which produces the Pentium® and Celeron® processors. Another company is AMD®, which produces the Athlon and Duron processors. In most cases, CPUs from Intel or AMD can be used with Microsoft operating systems.



Figure 1-14 A CPU not connected to the motherboard.

kinds of ways. From introducing the PC, learning the components that make up your personal computer and to getting to know your Windows XP desktop, PC Basics covers it all. The CD-ROM takes the reader on a tour inside a PC. Learn how to work with the Start menu, utilize wizards and manage files and folders. Understand how to use a mouse, boot up the computer. You'll work smarter and faster - and learn how to do a whole lot more.

PC Basics will show you how to:

- Create shortcuts to files, folders, drives and programs
- Select, move, copy, delete, rename and search for files
- Troubleshoot basic problems with monitors and printers
- Explore the capabilities of recordable disc drives in playing audio CDs and DVDs.
- Learn how to organize and customize your computer
- Create folders and subfolder
- Work in a shared or networked environment

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It's your computer. It's your life. Make the most of it.

Survive & Thrive allows you to stick to the bare essentials or dig deep into the topics that interest you most. Use the CD to learn at your own pace. And keep your disc handy for a quick refresher. With one click, you can enter the exciting world of web-based learning.



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