Computer hardware

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From USB connectors to motherboards, the HowStuffWorks Computer Hardware Channel will help you find explanations, reviews, videos, and prices for the parts you need. Are you curious about what's inside your computer? Browse these computer hardware images and take a tour of your PC, from RAM to hard drives and everything. Motherboards tie everything to your computer. I take it all these pieces are on your motherboard? See a photo labeled on the next page. A typical motherboard contains areas for computer memory, CPU, AGP, PCI, and more. See a close-up of motherboard slots on the next page. The computer hardware, such as memory, PCI, and AGP, connect to the motherboard through slots. Have you ever seen a motherboard bridge? See the next page. The chipset is the glue that connects the microprocessor to the rest of the motherboard and therefore to the rest of the computer. In a PC, it consists of two basic parts: the north bridge and the south bridge. Take a look at the computer's memory next. Computer memory has a great effect on system performance. In the photo above is SIMM memory, or a single inline memory module, which is a type of RAM module. See dimm memory on the next page. Dimm, or dual-line memory module, has a 64-bit path to memory chips, while SIMM has only 32 bits. The next type of memory is often found in notebooks, printers, and network equipment. SODIMM, or small in-line memory module, is made with integrated circuits and is about half the size of DIMM modules. See where RAM is located inside a desktop computer next. A RAM update can greatly extend the life of your computer. The next image is of a type of memory that your computer uses at initialization. The basic BIOS of the input output system is the first thing you see when you turn on your computer. The BIOS gives important instructions to the computer hardware on the next page. A microprocessor - also known as CPU or central processing unit - is a complete computing engine that is manufactured on a single chip. See a high-performance processor on the next page that was originally used on supercomputers. 64-bit processors have entered the mainstream, like this eight-generation Athlon processor. However, you need the hard drive on the next page to store all the information processed by your computer. A hard drive is a sealed aluminum case, which was opened in this photo. The controller electronics are attached to one side, controlling the read/write mechanism and the motor that rotates the dishes. See a close-up of the disc and trays next. This hard drive has three trays, also called hard drives, and six read/write heads. See how the hard drive is on the next page. The arm on a hard drive holds the read/write heads and has to be incredibly fast and accurate. There is one arm per read/write head, and they are all aligned to form Unit. See what connects your hard drive to your PC in the next image. The Integrated Drive Electronics interface is the most popular way to connect a hard drive to a PC. See the drive that connects your peripherals next. The Peripheral Components Interconnection (PCI) bus provides direct access to system memory for connected devices. PCI slots can be used for network, graphics and sound cards. See a PCI card on the next page. PCI cards use 47 pins to attach to a PCI slot. Pins are thin metal feet that allow computer chips to be attached to a circuit board. The next piece of hardware replaced the PCI as the standard way to connect a graphics card. An AGP graphics port, or accelerated, allows the operating system to designate RAM for use by the graphics card (such as the one above) in real time. Take a closer look at a graphics card on the next page. Like a motherboard, a graphics card is a printed circuit board that houses a processor and ram. If you like computer games, probably want this next piece of hardware. PCI Express or PCIe eliminates the need for AGP by accepting more data and providing more power for video cards. However, the item in the next image was replacing PCIe as the new default. Almost any computer you buy today comes with Universal Serial Bus connectors that allow you to connect everything from mice to printers. See how PCs work to learn more. This PC power supply has been removed from the PC box. The small red switch on the right, above the power cable connector, is to change the line voltages in several countries. See the inside of the power supply next. PC power supplies use switcher technology to convert AC input into lower DC voltages. The 3.3 and 5 volts are typically used by digital circuits, while the 12-volt is used to run motors on disc drives and fans. See the power supply transformers below. In this photo you can see three small transformers (yellow) in the center. On the left are two cylindrical capacitors. Large aluminum parts are heat sinks. Take a closer look at a heat sink then. Here you can see a heatsink and fan on a laptop, similar to the hardware on a desktop. See how PCs work to learn more. Updated: 03/06/2020 by Computer Hope Click on the letters in early below the hardware device you are looking for or scroll down to see a full listing. The | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | The | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z Updated: 31/08/2020 by Computer Hope 0-9ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTSTUVWXYZ Back to Computer Dictionary This was useful? YesNo This is a self-accelerated course that provides an introduction to computer hardware and operating systems This course will cover topics including: System hardware fundamentals Introduction to SYSTEM concepts The processes and threads Input topics and impasses Memory management By the end of this course students should be to: Define a computer Define what is an operating system Describe components of an operating system Describe how threads work on an operating system Describe how memory works on an operating system Describe how data is represented and how computers execute instructions to use and modify data to resolve problems. Course Outline: Week 1 - System hardware fundamentals Week 2 - Introduction to the concepts of OS Week 3 - Processes & threads Week 4 - Discussion and impasses Week 5 - Memory Management Week 6 - Exam Receive a certificate signed by the instructor with the institution logo to verify its realization and increase your job prospectsAproject the certificate for your CV or resume , or post it directly to LinkedInGive yourself an additional incentive to complete the EdX course, a non-profit organization, relies on verified certificates to help fund free education for all globally LAS VEGAS — Greetings from The National Hardware Show in Las Vegas, where more than 3,300 exhibitors from around the world have come to showcase their latest products in the hardware industries , tools and lawns and gardens. As I walked through the crowded corridors this morning, I was impressed by the wide variety of products on display. Have you ever looked at your simple white toilet seat and thought: Wow, could this definitely use some embelllishment? Neither do I. But, now it is possible to decorate any toilet seat simply by applying a bathroom tattoo. Made from an easy-to-clean vinyl film, bathroom tattoos adhere to no stickers, and can be removed and repositioned. They are available in a variety of stylish designs and extravagant patterns. The sizes fit into round or elongated seats, and cost about $8 each, two for $15 or three for $21. From those devilishly intelligent people of the Red Devil comes King Kaulk, a multipurpose product that is a caulk, sealant and all-in-one adhesive. Use it in or out in wood, brick, concrete, glass, tile, fiberglass, mirrors, plastic and all metals. According to Red Devil, a King Kaulk tube can be used in place of many other caulking products such as silicone sealant, window and door broth, panel adhesive and kitchen and bath broth. A 10.1 oz tube. costs about $8. If you've done a lot of painting around the house, you know it often takes longer to clean after than to actually paint. The EZ clean brush can change that. This pro-quality brush has a hollow handle that is equipped with a threaded hose fitting. When you're done painting, just attach a garden hose, turn on the water and lift the bristers clean. There are 10 EZ Clean Brushes available that from 2 in ($9) to 4 in. ($10). No-Rip Trash Bags - Say goodbye to heavy bags. Demobags are the only truly indestructible garbage bags I've ever seen. Designed for professional contractors to use during demolition of buildings, demobags are high strength poly-woven Measuring about 25 inches. wide x 38 inches, these hard totes do not tear or break, even when packed with nail-inbed plates. A box of 20 bags costs less than $20. — Joe Truini Previously: Tools you thought you knew, best idea on wheels, hardware award also rans, on the floor of the National Hardware Show. King Kaulk, a multipurpose compound of the Red Devil, does everything.