

Processor Speed

What does the processor speed of your computer really tell you? If you listen to the commercials of the big name computer stores you would think that the processor speed of your computer is the most important component of your entire system. Well, I'm here to tell you that it's not! There comes a point, for most computer users, when "faster" processors don't feel any faster than the already "fast" processor they were using before they upgraded. Or you could look at it like this; if you're traveling 75 mph down the interstate could you tell the difference if you accidentally started driving 76 mph? Either way, you're still going fast!

The simple fact of the matter is if your computer is 1.0 GHz or faster and you do the typical home/office applications, (Internet, e-mail, word processor) then you probably would not benefit from a processor upgrade. However, if you're computing activities include video editing, high-end 3D gaming or professional graphic design then a processor upgrade might be just what the doctor ordered.

Now for the bad news. When upgrading your processor it will almost always be necessary to also replace your case, motherboard, and ram as well. As technology advances manufacturers find better, faster ways for their processors to gain speed, and unfortunately for the computer users that sometimes means having to replace perfectly good supporting components with their newer faster counterparts.

Now for the good news. Most computer stores sell complete packages that include all of the necessary components to complete your processor upgrade starting in the \$200-\$300 price range labor included. Also, when shopping for a processor I would suggest to at least get a processor that is doubled in the speed of what you are using now in order to be sure that you will actually 'feel' the speed difference.

If you want your computer to feel faster then your best bet is to add more ram to your system. If you are running Windows XP on your computer then I recommend you have at least 256 megs of ram. In fact to have a truly smooth running system you should really think about having a minimum of 512 meg memory. Other ways of increasing the speed of your computer is to have your computer optimized using tools such as MSCONFIG.

If you feel like your computer is not running up to its full potential then you should have the best technicians in Powell take a FREE look at your computer. Call Thomas, Roger, or Scott at the Computer Depot at 947-0749 or e-mail Thomas at ComputerDepotOnline@att.net