

## 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 your 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 manufactures 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.

For many computer users it may make more sense to spend a little money on some more ram. I know many of you that read my column every week are getting a little tired of me harping on this "miracle solution"; but you would be amazed at how little ram manufactures ship in many bargain systems. So little ram in fact, that if do little more then turn your computer on then your computer will max out its available resources and will slow to a crawl. Save yourself some aggravation and spend \$50 on some more ram. I guarantee you will be amazed with the performance boost.

Processor upgrades are popular, and unfortunately expensive. However, a processor upgrade can easily double the life of your computer and will normally cost half as much as a brand new computer. Because of this, a processor upgrade may be a perfect compromise. If you have computer questions or problems feel free to contact Powell's most reliable computer shop, Computer Depot at 947-0749, or e-mail us [computerdepotonline@att.net](mailto:computerdepotonline@att.net).