

So What's New?

It's been a while since I've updated you on plain old computer technology. For those of you that want to stay on the cutting edge of computer technology then this is the article for you. Please keep in mind that I am not promoting the idea that everyone needs to run right out and buy a computer with these new technologies. I'm writing this article for the folks that live and die by the amount of time it takes their PC to perform a task. Many of you that primarily use their computer for simple Word Processing, E-mailing, and Internet use probably do not need this technology.

Processors have come a long way. Since the last time I've written about processor both AMD and Intel have released many newer processors. Intel's biggest baddest new chip is the Intel Extreme Edition 840 with Hyper-Treading Technology. This processor runs at 3.2 GHz, not as fast as Microsoft's fastest chip running at 3.8 GHz. This new processor, however, has one major advantage; it has a dual core. A dual core processor is a single processor package that has two processor chips packed inside.

A normal single core processor can only do one thing at a time. Anyone working on a windows based computer has to complete multiple tasks at one time. Windows XP, Internet Explorer, Virus protection, and numerous other programs have to run at the same time. A single core processor can make it look like it is completing these tasks at the same time by dividing up the time it works on each task. The processor focuses all of its processing power on that one task for a fraction of time before heading onto the next task.

A dual core processor can actually out perform a single core processor because it literally contains two separate processors that are able to perform two separate tasks at the same time. It would be easy to assume that a dual core processor is twice as fast as a single core processor but this is not a true assumption. Due to limitations in hard drive, memory and other technologies a dual core processor can only be about 40% to 50% faster.

Unfortunately like most major upgrades it's not possible to simply pop your old chip out of your old motherboard and install this new dual core chip. If you have a newer computer your system might be a candidate to upgrade to this new dual core technology, however if your system is several years old it may be a good idea to simply trade it in on an entirely new system.

We recommend Giga-Byte brand motherboards. The model number that is compatible with this particular chip is GA-8I955X Royal Socket T. This Board sells for about \$250 and has all of the newest features you would ever want in a motherboard. To find out more about this board go to www.giga-byte.com. The processor chip itself will be priced near the \$1000 mark once it's available to custom builders like my self. Other componets that will need to be upgraded is your ram memory, video card, and power supply.

While it's fun to think about what you could do with such a high end computer, the fact of the matter is many of you don't actually need that kind of power. In fact, for just a couple of hundred dollars we can breath new life into your older computer system. To find out if your computer is a good candidate stop by and see Thomas, Roger or Scott at the Computer Depot and we can perform a FREE system diagnostic for you. Call us at 947-0749 for more details.