The concept of computer hardware class was an online class with video lectures, demonstration videos, fact sheets, stimulated labs and practice quizzes. This class taught us all the aspects of the physical components of a computer hardware system. Computer hardware is the collection of physical parts of a computer system. This includes the computer case, monitor, keyboard, and mouse. It also includes all the parts inside the computer case, such as the hard disk drive, motherboard, video card, and many others. Computer hardware is what you can physically touch. In this class, we learnt how computer hardware and the operating systems work together. This class was very informative as it explained what it would be like if we had the job of a computer technician.

The course focused on components in a computer system such as storage, motherboards, processors and memory. We learnt how to connect the hardware components with each other and also how to manage computer storage. Ensuring the safety of the data and information stored in a computer is very important and we learnt about various devices where we can store information securely. Being able to build a computer is important but it is also important to know how to troubleshoot common computer programs. We also learnt on how to manage a windows and mac desktop systems, how to implement a computer system from both the hardware and software perspective and how to manage files in the file system.

The course also looks at how to secure desktop systems and emphasizes on the security by teaching us how to make sure that the right people are able to access the right information on that desktop system. I chose to use the artifact where I built a computer from scratch. I think that before we move on in depth with computer hardware and their implementations with the computer software, we should first know the components of the hardware and be able to build it. This artifact sums up what all we should know in order to set up a computer.

While doing this stimulation lab, it took me couple of tries before I could do it in one session. It is easy to miss minor connections in this set up. Additionally, it is even harder to debug where we went wrong because we only know that we have an error at the very end when we boot the computer. I kept on missing a few things here and there which eventually made me frustrated. However, I overcame my frustration by writing down the step by step procedure and following the steps so that I do not miss anything. Overall, most of the stimulation lab assignments needed a couple of tries before we were able to do it in one try. In my opinion, doing the labs multiple times helped me retain the information learnt in each section. The only thing I would want to change in this class is to have a hands-on experience with computer hardware.