**NETWORKING & SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION LAB**

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**Date: 18/03/2022**

**Experiment No.: 1**

**Aim**

Identify major components of a computer system such as

* Motherboard
* RAM modules
* Daughter cards
* Bus slots
* SMPS
* Internal storage devices
* Interfacing ports

**Procedure**

* **Motherboard**

The main circuit board of a computer, usually containing the central processing unit and main system memory as well as circuitry that controls the disk drives, keyboard, monitor, and other peripheral devices. Also called the "system board," "main board" "base board" or "logic board”. In a modern desktop computer, the motherboard contains the CPU and RAM sockets as well as the chipset, which houses the control circuits for all the peripheral devices (drives, keyboard, mouse, etc.).

* **RAM modules**

A memory module is another name for a RAM chip. It is often used as a general term used to describe SIMM, DIMM, and SO-DIMM memory. While there are several different types of memory modules available, they all serve the same purpose, which is to store temporary data while the computer is running. Memory modules come in different sizes and have several different pin configurations.

* **Daughter cards**

A daughterboard is type of circuit board that plugs in or is attached to the motherboard or similar expansion card to extend its features and services. A daughterboard complements the existing functionality of a motherboard or an expansion card. Like a motherboard, a daughterboard has sockets, pins, plugs and connectors to be attached to other boards.

* **Bus slots**

An expansion slot is a socket on the motherboard that is used to insert an expansion card (or circuit board), which provides additional features to a computer such as video, sound, advanced graphics, Ethernet or memory.

Expansion cards can provide various functions including:

* Modems
* Network
* Interface adapters
* Solid-state drive
* Expansion read-only memory (ROM)
* **SMPS**

SMPS stands for switch-mode power supply. Its job is to convert wall-voltage AC power to lower voltage DC power. SMPS regulate and provide reliable output irrespective of variation in input voltage for proper functioning of your computer.

* **Internal storage devices**

The most common type of internal storage is the hard disk. Internal storage is needed to hold the operating system so that the computer is able to access the input and output devices. It will also be used to store the applications software that you use and more than likely, the original copies of your data files. Internal storage allows the data and applications to be loaded very rapidly into memory, ready for use. The data can be accessed much faster than data which is stored on an external storage device. This is because internal storage devices are connected directly to the motherboard and its data bus whereas external devices are connected through a hardware interface such as USB, which means they are considerably slower to access.

* **Interfacing ports**

A Computer Port is an interface or a point of connection between the computer and its peripheral devices. Some of the common peripherals are mouse, keyboard, monitor or display unit, printer, speaker, flash drive etc.

The main function of a computer port is to act as a point of attachment, where the cable from the peripheral can be plugged in and allows data to flow from and to the device.

A serial port is an interface through which peripherals can be connected using a serial protocol which involves the transmission of data one bit at a time over a single communication line.

A parallel port, on the other hand, is an interface through which the communication between a computer and its peripheral device is in a parallel manner i.e. data is transferred in or out in parallel using more than one communication line or wire. Printer port is an example of parallel port.