NETWORKING & SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION LAB

Experiment No.: 1

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<u>Aim</u>

Identify major components of a computer system such as Motherboard, RAM modules, Daughter cards, Bus slots, SMPS, Internal storage devices, Interfacing ports.

Procedure

MOTHER BOARD

The motherboard serves as a single platform to connect all of the parts of a computer together. It connects the CPU, memory, hard drives, optical drives, video card, sound card, and other ports and expansion cards directly or via cables. It can be considered as the backbone of a computer.



Features of Motherboard

A motherboard comes with following features –

- Motherboard varies greatly in supporting various types of components.
- Motherboard supports a single type of CPU and few types of memories.

- Video cards, hard disks, sound cards have to be compatible with the motherboard to function properly.
- Motherboards, cases, and power supplies must be compatible to work properly together.

The motherboard is mounted inside the case and is securely attached via small screws through pre-drilled holes. Motherboard contains ports to connect all of the internal components. It provides a single socket for CPU, whereas for memory, normally one or more slots are available. Motherboards provide ports to attach the floppy drive, hard drive, and optical drives via ribbon cables. Motherboard carries fans and a special port designed for power supply.

There is a peripheral card slot in front of the motherboard using which video cards, sound cards, and other expansion cards can be connected to the motherboard.

On the left side, motherboards carry a number of ports to connect the monitor, printer, mouse, keyboard, speaker, and network cables. Motherboards also provide USB ports, which allow compatible devices to be connected in plug-in/plug-out fashion. For example, pen drive, digital cameras, etc.

RAM MODULES

In computing, a memory module or RAM (random-access memory) stick is a printed circuit board on which memory integrated circuits are mounted. Memory modules permit easy installation and replacement in electronic systems, especially computers such as personal computers, workstations, and servers. The first memory modules were proprietary designs that were specific to a model of computer from a specific manufacturer. Later, memory modules were standardized by organizations such as JEDEC and could be used in any system designed to use them.

Types of memory module include:

- -TransFlash Memory Module
- -SIMM, a single in-line memory module
- -DIMM, dual in-line memory module

Rambus memory modules are a subset of DIMMs, but are normally referred to as RIMMs

SO-DIMM, small outline DIMM, a smaller version of the DIMM, used in laptops

Distinguishing characteristics of computer memory modules include voltage, capacity, speed (i.e., bit rate), and form factor. For economic reasons, the large (main) memories

found in personal computers, workstations, and non-handheld game-consoles (such as PlayStation and Xbox) normally consist of dynamic RAM (DRAM). Other parts of the computer, such as cache memories normally use static RAM (SRAM). Small amounts of SRAM are sometimes used in the same package as DRAM. However, since SRAM has high leakage power and low density, die-stacked DRAM has recently been used for designing multi-megabyte sized processor caches.

Daughter Card

A daughterboard (or *daughter board*, *daughter card*, or *daughtercard*) is a circuit board that plugs into and extends the circuitry of another circuit board. The other circuit board may be the computer's main board (its motherboard) or it may be another board or card that is already in the computer, often a sound card. The term is commonly used by manufacturers of wavetable daughterboards that attach to existing sound cards.

Some daughtercard designs are made so that engineers can add functionality to a device without requiring a lot more room inside its housing. These kinds of items are often called riser boards or risers. Some might also call them "mezzanine boards."

Daughtercards are different from some other types of additional circuit boards that tech enthusiasts call "expansion cards." In expansion cards, the circuit board is often plugged in through a gap in the housing of a computer or device. These expansion boards help to give a device more functionality, often for additional sound play or for better visuals on a high-tech monitor or screen.

In contrast to the way expansion boards are used, a daughtercard can be a more fundamental enhancement for a device. Adding a daughtercard often requires getting into the guts of a device. That's why some users might hire a professional to install it. Companies that make an electronic device might offer a daughtercard as part of an essential upgrade that allows the product to be used in more various ways.

Bus slots

Alternatively known as a bus slot or expansion port, an expansion slot is a connection or port inside a computer on the motherboard or riser card. It provides an installation point for a hardware expansion card to be connected. For example, if you wanted to install a new video card in the computer, you'd purchase a video expansion card and install that card into the compatible expansion slot.

There are three different types of expansion slots: PCI Express, PCI, and AGP.

- PCI Network card, SCSI, Sound card, Video card
- **PCI Express** Video card
- AGP Video card
- ISA Network card, Sound card, Video card
- AMR Modem, Sound card
- CNR Modem, Network card, Sound card
- EISA SCSI, Network card, Video card
- VESA Video card

SMPS

A switched-mode power supply (SMPS) is an electronic circuit that converts power using switching devices that are turned on and off at high frequencies, and storage components such as inductors or capacitors to supply power when the switching device is in its non-conduction state.

Switching power supplies have high efficiency and are widely used in a variety of electronic equipment, including computers and other sensitive equipment requiring stable and efficient power supply. A switched-mode power supply is also known as a switch-mode power supply or switching-mode power supply.

Advantages of switched-mode power supplies:

- Higher efficiency of 68% to 90%
- Regulated and reliable outputs regardless of variations in input supply voltage
- Small size and lighter
- Flexible technology
- High power density

Disadvantages:

- Generates electromagnetic interference
- Complex circuit design
- Expensive compared to linear supplies

Switched-mode power supplies are used to power a wide variety of equipment such as computers, sensitive electronics, battery-operated devices and other equipment requiring high efficiency.

Internal storage devices

Internal storage refers to the means by which data is saved when the PC or laptop is powered off. Traditionally the device that stored the data was call a hard disk drive (HDD) - essentially a magnetic spinning disk upon which the data was stored. Today, there is another choice - a solid state drive (SSD), which has no moving parts and where the data is stored on memory cells. Although SSD is a much newer technology both types of data storage drive have a place, especially in business critical devices such as servers - here the consideration usually isn't about when the server is turned off, as in most cases they run continuously, but concerned with getting the right type of storage for the data usage and the degree of cost to store it.

Some storage devices are classed as 'internal' which means they are inside the computer case. Most computers have some form of internal storage. The most common type of internal storage is the hard disk.

At the most basic level, 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.

Internal storage also means that if the computer is moved around, it will still retain its most commonly used data.

The main disadvantage of internal storage is that when the hard disk fails (and it will), all the data and applications may be lost.

This can be avoided to some extent by using more than one hard disk within the machine. Each hard disk has a copy of all the data, so if one fails the other can carry on. This is called a RAID array. An alternative is to use external drives for backup

Interfacing Ports

A computer is a device that transforms data into meaningful information. It processes the input according to the set of instructions provided to it by the user and gives the desired output. As we know that we can connect multiple external devices with the computer system. Now, these devices are connected with the computer using Ports. The ports are the physical docking points present in the computer through which the

external devices are connected using cables. Or in other words, a port is an interface between the motherboard and an external device of the computer. There are different types of ports available:

- Serial port
- Parallel port
- USB port
- PS/2 port
- VGA port
- Modem port
- FireWire Port
- Sockets
- Infrared Port
- Game Port
- Digital Video Interface(DVI) Port
- Ethernet Port