NETWORKING & SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION LAB

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Aim

Identify major components of computer system such as Motherboard, RAM Module, Daughter cards, Bus slot, SMPS, Internal Storage Device, Interfacing ports.

Procedure

1. Motherboard:

A motherboard is a circuit board through which all the different components of a computer communications and it keeps everything together. The input and output devices are plugged into the motherboard for function.

2.RAM Modules

RAM, which stands for random-access memory, which temporarily stores data while the central processing unit (CPU) is executing other tasks. With more RAM on the computer, the less the CPU has to read data from the external or secondary memory (storage device), allowing the computer to run faster. RAM is fast but it is volatile, which means it will not retain data if there is no power. It is therefore important to save data to the storage device before the system is turned off.

There are two main types of RAM: Dynamic RAM (DRAM) and Static RAM (SRAM).

DRAM is widely used as a computer's main memory. Each DRAM memory cell is made up of a transistor and a capacitor within an integrated circuit, and a data bit is stored in the capacitor. Since transistors always leak a small amount, the capacitors will slowly discharge, causing information stored in it to drain; hence, DRAM has to be refreshed (given a new electronic charge) every few milliseconds to retain data.

Common Types Of DRAM

- Synchronous DRAM (SDRAM)
- Rambus DRAM (RDRAM)
- Double Data Rate SDRAM (DDR SDRAM)

SRAM is made up of four to six transistors. It keeps data in the memory as long as power is supplied to the system unlike DRAM, which has to be refreshed periodically. As such, SRAM is faster but also more expensive, making DRAM the more prevalent memory in computer systems.

3.Daughtercard

A daughtercard is similar to an expansion board, but it accesses the motherboard components (memory and CPU) directly instead of sending data through the slower expansion bus. A daughtercard is also called a daughterboard.

4.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.

6.SMPS

SMPS is an electronic power supply system that makes use of a switching regulator to transfer electrical power effectively.

7.Internal storage devices

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.

8.Interfacing Ports

A port is a connection or a jack provided on a computer to connect external or peripheral devices to the computer, for example, you will need a port on your device to connect a keyboard, mouse, pen-drives, etc. So, it acts as an interface or a point of attachment between <u>computer</u> and external devices. It is also called a communication port, as it is the point where you plug in a peripheral device to allow data transfer or communication between the device and computer. Generally, they are four to six in number and present on the back or sides of the computer.