

## **List of Lab Experiments/Exercises:**

1). Introduction to Computer hardware: Physical identification of major components of a computer system such as mother board, RAM modules, daughter cards, bus slots, SMPS, internal storage devices, interfacing ports. Specifications of desktop and server class computers. Installation of common operating systems for desktop and server use. (Students may be asked to formulate specification for computer to be used as Desktop, Web server).

ANSWER:

### **Motherboard of a computer:**

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.

### Description of Motherboard

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:**

Memory module:

A narrow printed circuit board that holds memory chips (RAM chips). The common architecture for desktop computers is the dual in-line memory module (DIMM), which transfers 64 bits at a time. Because of space limitations, laptops use small outline DIMMs (SODIMMs). The modules are keyed with notches in different places so they cannot be inserted into the wrong slots.

Types of memory module:

- Single In-Line Memory Module (SIMM)

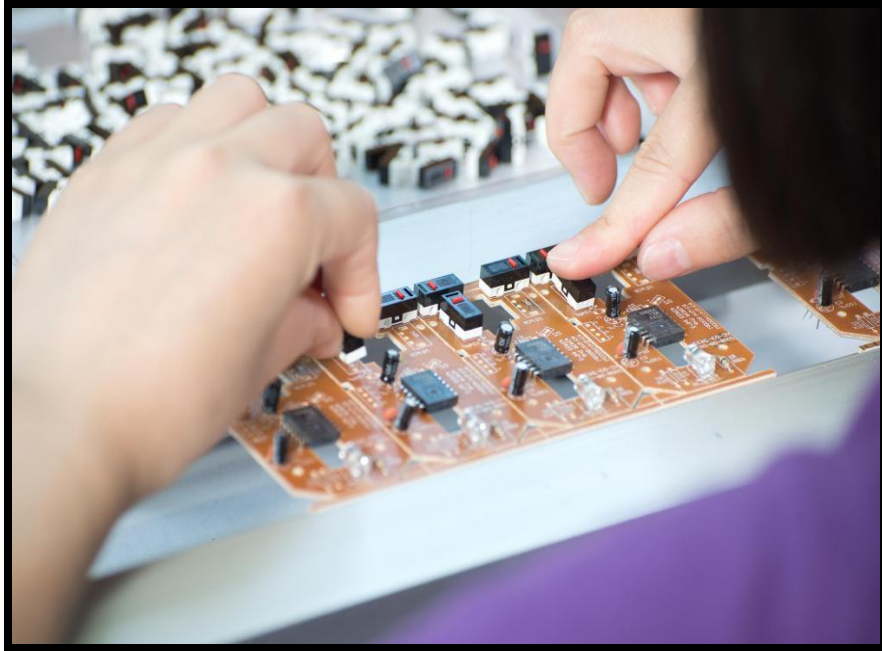
SIMM modules were widely used from the late 1980s to 1990s, and are now obsolete. They typically had 32-bit data bus and were available in two physical types—30- and 72-pin.

- Dual In-Line Memory Module (DIMM)

Current memory modules come in DIMMs. "Dual in-line" refers to pins on both sides of the modules. A DIMM originally had a 168-pin connector supporting 64-bit data bus, which is twice the data width of SIMMs. The wider bus means that more data can pass through a DIMM, translating to faster overall performance. Latest DIMMs based on fourth-generation double data rate (DDR4) SDRAM have 288-pin connectors for increased data throughput.

### **Daughter card in computer:**

A daughter card or daughterboard is a type of circuit board that gets added to an existing one. Its name is appropriate for its use, since it is connected to a “motherboard” or “main board.” The motherboard is the primary circuit board for a device. It is usually in the device as it is shipped from the factory.



### **Bus slot:**

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.

The expansion card has an edge connector that fits precisely into the expansion slot as well as a row of contacts that is designed to establish an electrical connection between the motherboard and the electronics on the card, which are mostly integrated circuits. Depending on the form factor of the case and motherboard, a computer system generally can have anywhere from one to seven expansion slots. With a backplane system, up to 19 expansion cards can be installed.

### **SMPS:**

The full form of SMPS is Switched Mode Power Supply also known as Switching Mode Power Supply. SMPS is an electronic power supply system that makes use of

a switching regulator to transfer electrical power effectively. It is a PSU (power supply unit) and is usually used in computers to change the voltage to the appropriate range for the computer.

An SMPS adjusts output voltage and current between different electrical configurations by switching the basics of typically lossless storage such as capacitors and inductors. Ideal switching concepts determined by transistors controlled outside of their active state that have no resistance when 'on' and carry no current when 'off.' It is the idea why switches with an ideal function will operate with 100 per cent output, that is, all input energy is provided to the load; no power is wasted as dissipated heating. In fact, such ideal systems do not exist, which is why a switching power source cannot be 100 per cent proficient, but it is still a vital improvement in effectiveness over a linear regulator.

#### **Working principles of SMPS:**

In the SMPS device, the switching regulators are used which switches on and off the load current to maintain and regulate the voltage output. Suitable power generation for a system is the mean voltage between off and on. Unlike the linear power supply, the SMPS carry transistor switches among low dissipation, full-on and full-off phase, and spend much less time in high dissipation cycles, which decreases depleted strength.

#### **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.

### **Computer – Ports:**

A port is a physical docking point using which an external device can be connected to the computer. It can also be programmatic docking point through which information flows from a program to the computer or over the Internet.

#### **Important types of ports:**

##### **Serial Port:**

- Used for external modems and older computer mouse
- Two versions: 9 pin, 25 pin model
- Data travels at 115 kilobits per second

##### **Parallel Port:**

- Used for scanners and printers
- Also called printer port
- 25 pin model
- IEEE 1284-compliant Centronics port

##### **PS/2 Port:**

- Used for old computer keyboard and mouse
- Also called mouse port

- Most of the old computers provide two PS/2 port, each for the mouse and keyboard
- IEEE 1284-compliant Centronics port

#### Universal Serial Bus (or USB) Port:

- It can connect all kinds of external USB devices such as external hard disk, printer, scanner, mouse, keyboard, etc.
- It was introduced in 1997.
- Most of the computers provide two USB ports as minimum.
- Data travels at 12 megabits per seconds.
- USB compliant devices can get power from a USB port.

#### VGA Port:

- Connects monitor to a computer's video card.
- It has 15 holes.
- Similar to the serial port connector. However, serial port connector has pins, VGA port has holes.

#### Power Connector:

- Three-pronged plug.
- Connects to the computer's power cable that plugs into a power bar or wall socket.

#### Firewire Port:



- Transfers large amount of data at very fast speed.
- Connects camcorders and video equipment to the computer.
- Data travels at 400 to 800 megabits per seconds.
- Invented by Apple.
- It has three variants: 4-Pin FireWire 400 connector, 6-Pin FireWire 400 connector, and 9-Pin FireWire 800 connector.

#### Modem Port:

- Connects a PC's modem to the telephone network.

#### Ethernet Port:

- Connects to a network and high speed Internet.
- Connects the network cable to a computer.
- This port resides on an Ethernet Card.
- Data travels at 10 megabits to 1000 megabits per seconds depending upon the network bandwidth.

#### Game Port:

- Connect a joystick to a PC
- Now replaced by USB

#### Digital Video Interface, DVI port

- Connects Flat panel LCD monitor to the computer's high-end video graphic cards.

- Very popular among video card manufacturers.

Sockets:

- Sockets connect the microphone and speakers to the sound card of the computer.