Learn
Plan
Build

Build a PC

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New Media Design: Elements III

May 8th, 2018 - v3

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Build a PC

The process of planning and assembling a custom built computer is a **lengthy and overwhelming process.**

Even with the ambition, most people **don't know where to start.**

Problem

Solution

Using a **procedural design method**, this app will walk the user through the steps they need to take in order to successfully **learn** about what goes into a computer, **plan** for what parts they would like in their machine, and finally **assembling** it all together.

Goals

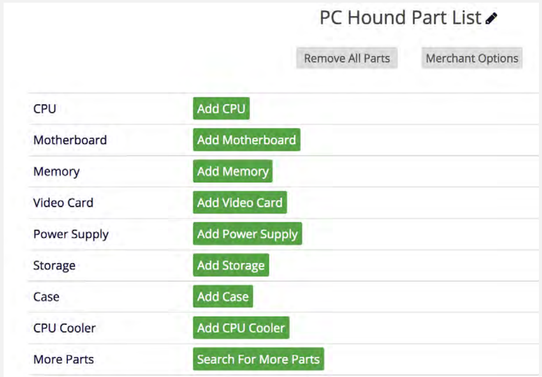
- Educate those who want to know **how computers work**
- Make the process of building a computer **less daunting**
- Steer the user towards a **successful custom build**

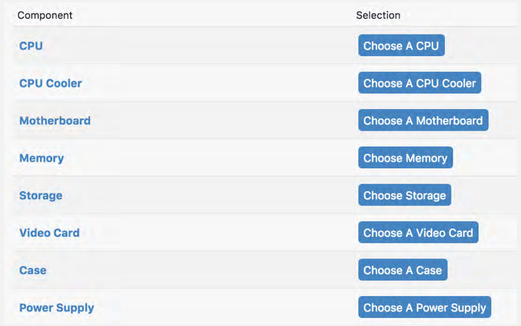
Competitive Analysis

	PCPartPicker	PCHound	iBuyPower	Newegg	MSI	ChooseMyPC.net
Create Your Build	✓	✓	Can only customize PCs			Can only customize storage sizes
Wattage Estimate	✓	✓				
See Prebuilts	✓		✓	✓		
Browse Parts	✓					
Price Trends	✓	✓				
Compatibility Notes	✓	✓				
Survey to Determine Parts			✓		Only three possible outcomes	Very few questions
Step by Step Build Guide					✓	✓
Learn about Parts					✓	✓

Trend Research

Part Breakdown

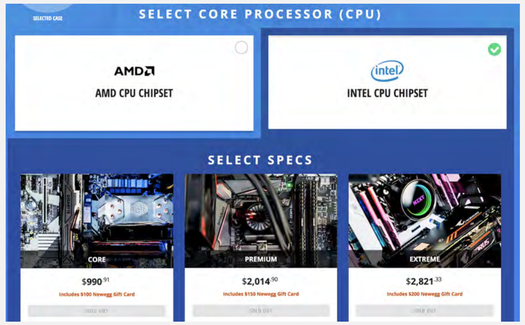


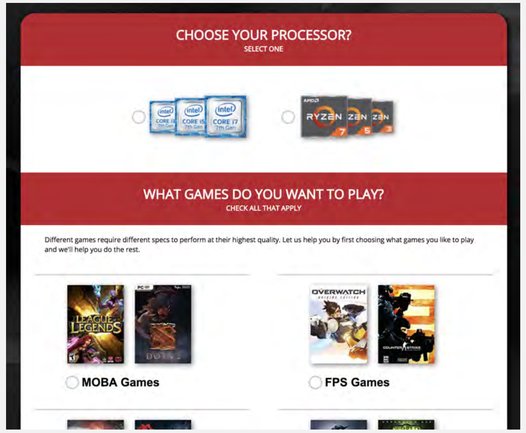


Part		Recommendation	Price
CPU		Intel Core i5-6500 3.2GHz Quad-Core This new skylake i5 is a quad core processor which will easily provide as much CPU power as you will need for a gaming build and offers great value for money if you do not plan to overclock	$196.88
CPU Cooler		Stock CPU Cooler (Bundled with CPU) The stock cooler which comes free with the CPU is just fine to keep it cool at stock speeds. It's nothing fancy, but it does the job	$0.00
Motherboard		Asus H110M-A/M.2 Micro ATX LGA1151 We have not written a description for this particular part yet, sorry	$44.99
RAM		G.Skill NT Series 8GB (1 x 8GB) DDR4-2400 Memory Different brands of RAM are basically equal as they will all perform at their rated specification. We have not written a description for this particular kit of RAM yet, sorry. 4GB is enough for gaming for the majority of situations and 8gb ensures that you have plenty to run background applications.	$45.99

Parts are listed in table format for the user to see a lot of information about each part they have selected

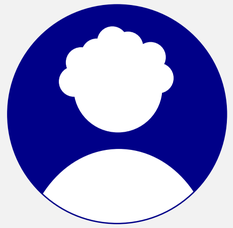
Customize Recommendations





Parts are already grouped together in prebuilt configurations which can later be customized

User Stories



Kathy

“How do I get my Facebook on this thing?”

Kathy is a 63 year old grandmother. Her old Dell desktop computer recently died on her so she’s in the market for a new computer.

She knows almost nothing about computers but doesn’t trust the pesky employees at the big box stores due to her previous unenjoyable interactions.

Kathy just wants something simple and easy enough for her to use for light internet browsing.

Frank

“Where does the RAM go again?”

Frank is a 19 year old college student. He is getting more into PC gaming and wants to upgrade some components in his computer.

He built the computer he wants to upgrade but heavily relied on guides and forums for advice and assistance before.

Frank wants to refresh his knowledge about building a PC before he jumps back in and upgrades his current build.

Ethan

“What’s the best CPU/GPU combination on the market?”

Ethan is a 33 year old chef. When he’s not cooking, he’s streaming himself on Twitch while playing the newest games.

He has already completed five different builds for himself and others over the years with varying degrees of processing power.

Ethan just got a renowned food critic to give his food the thumbs up, so he’s going to reward himself with some of the best components on the market for his new build.

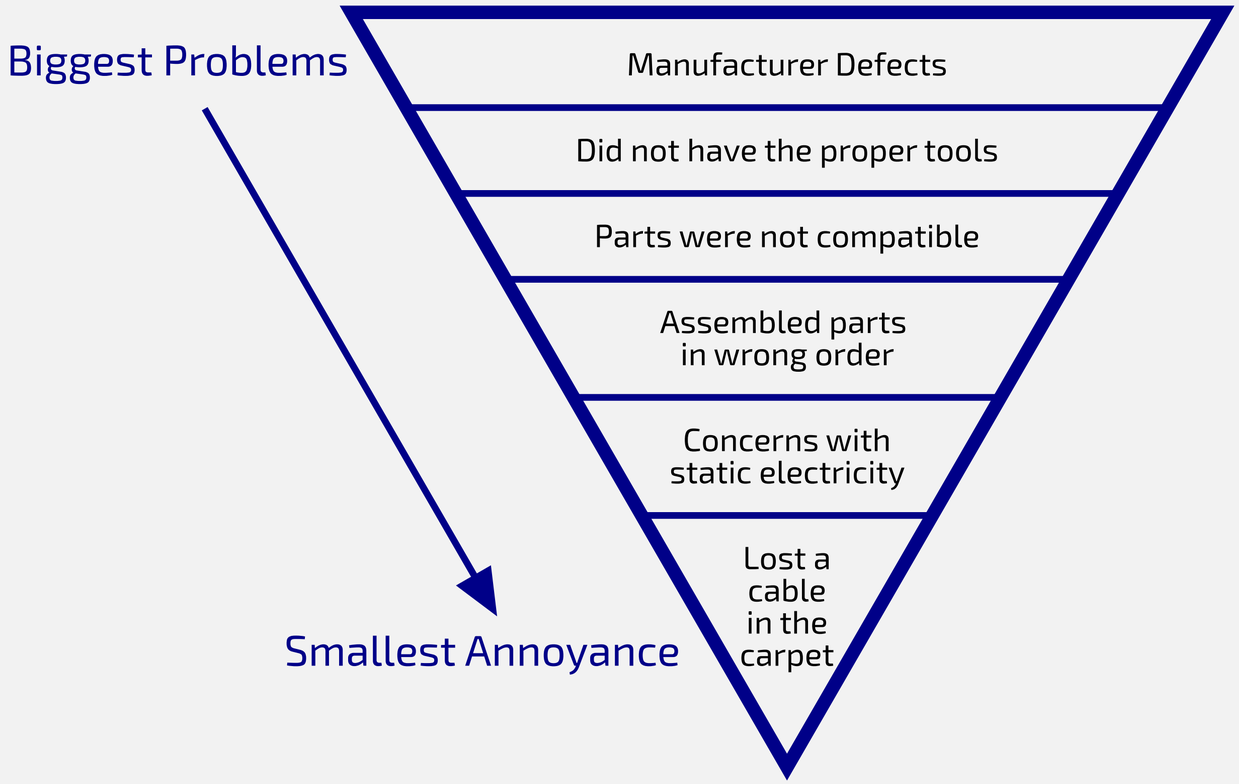
<userResearch>

Survey Stats

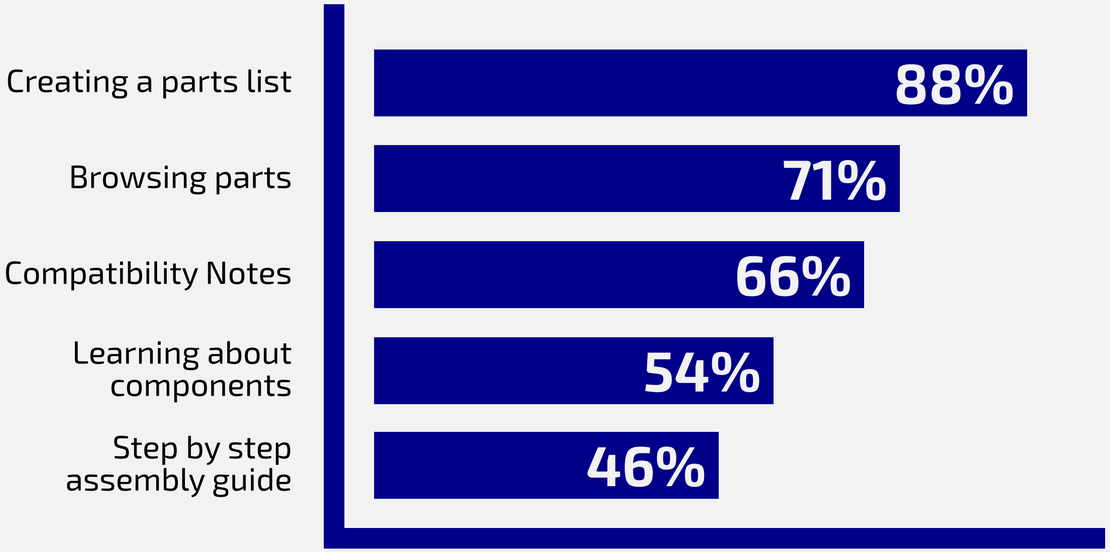
- 41 responses
- Results from 8 countries
- 68.3% have completed/are currently in college
- Age range from 14 to 41 (average age of 22)

* Must have built or helped build a computer in the past in order to participate in the survey

Did you encounter any problems while building your first PC?



Percentage of Users Using Competitor's Key Features



Other Quotes

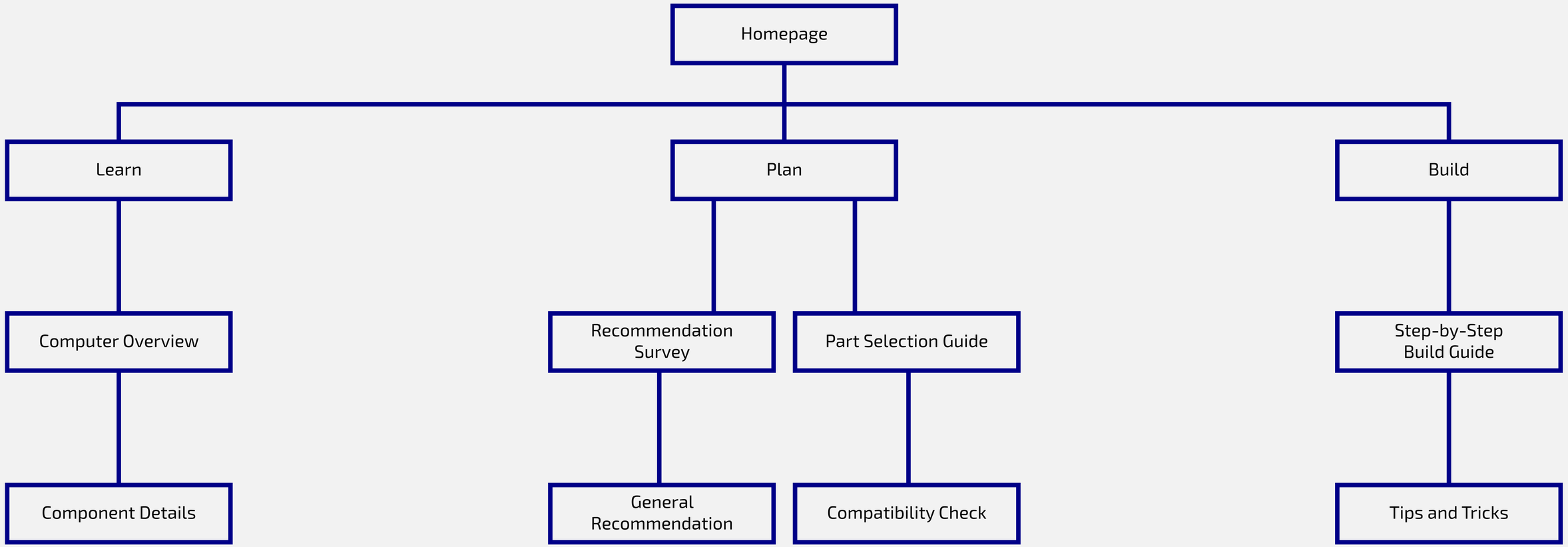
"[I want a] compatibility checker. After deciding on a build, [I would like to] have some kind of feature that makes sure the components will all work together."

"[The other PC building resources] seemed segmented."

"UI design [of the competitors] is pretty universally ugly/bad."

</userResearch>

Sitemap


Homepage
Learn
Plan
Build
Computer Overview
Recommendation Survey
Part Selection Guide
Step-by-Step Build Guide
Component Details
General Recommendation
Compatibility Check
Tips and Tricks

Style Guide

Exo 2

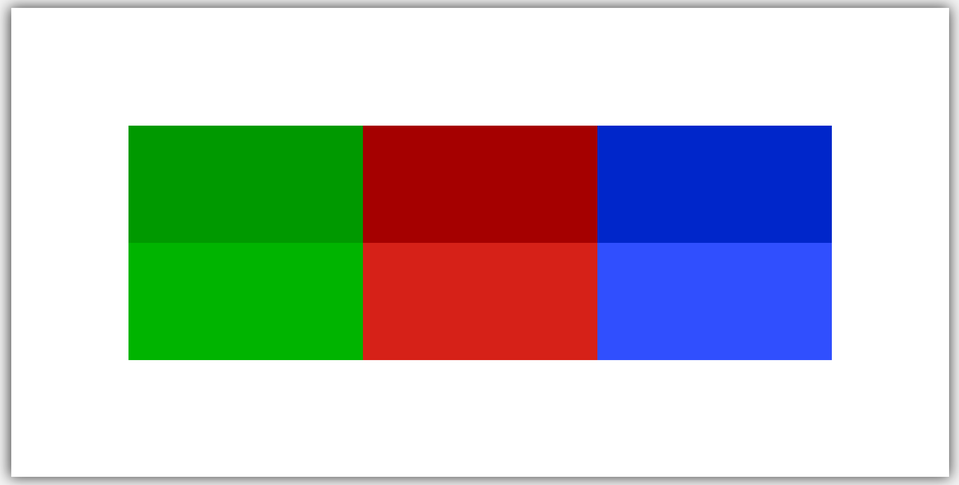
80pt, Extra Bold

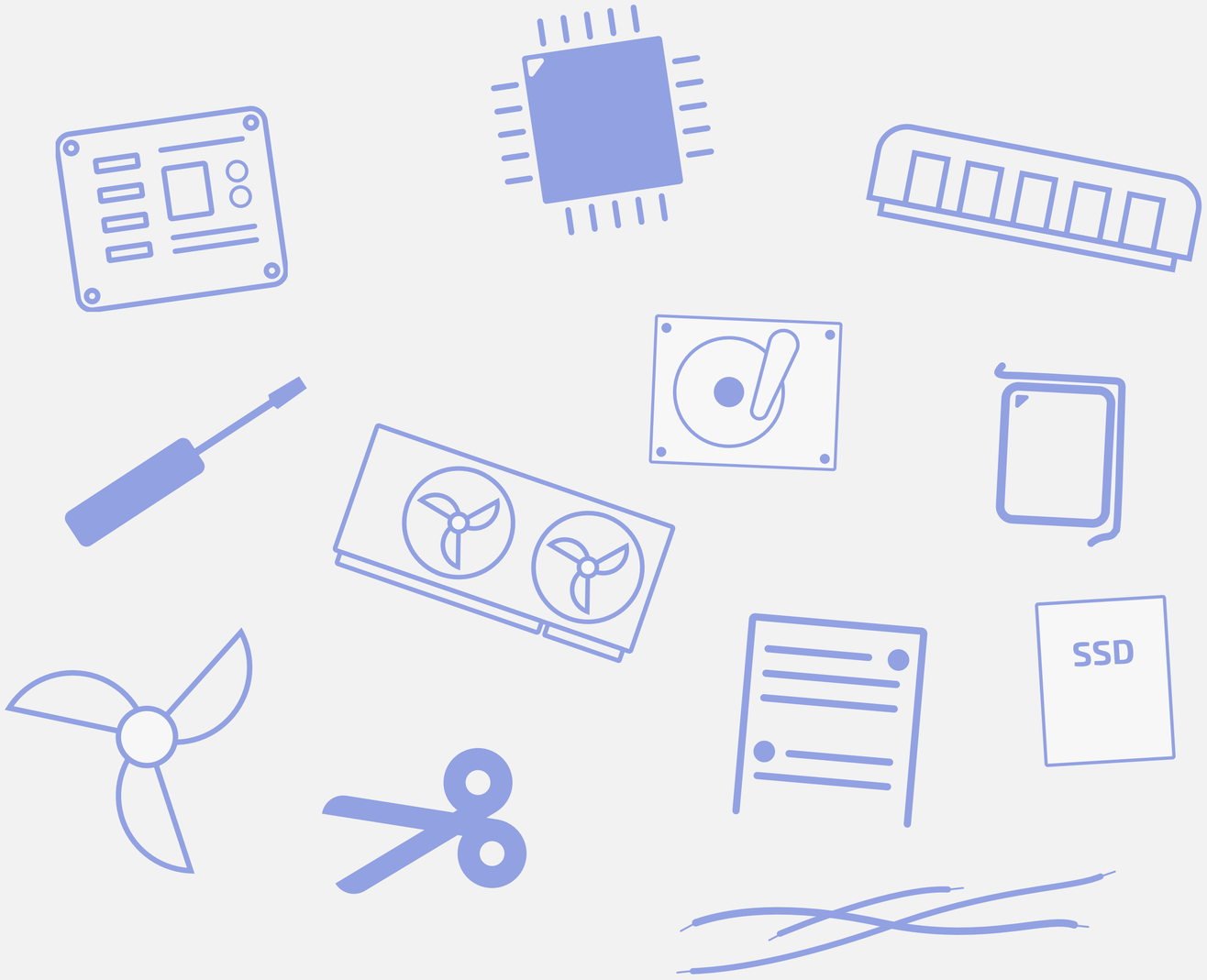
60pt, Bold

32pt, Regular

32pt, Regular Italic

20pt, Extra Bold





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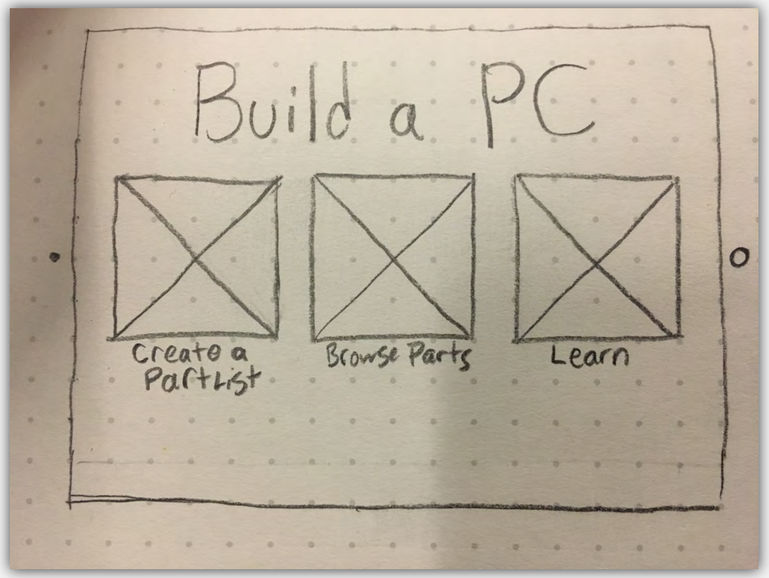

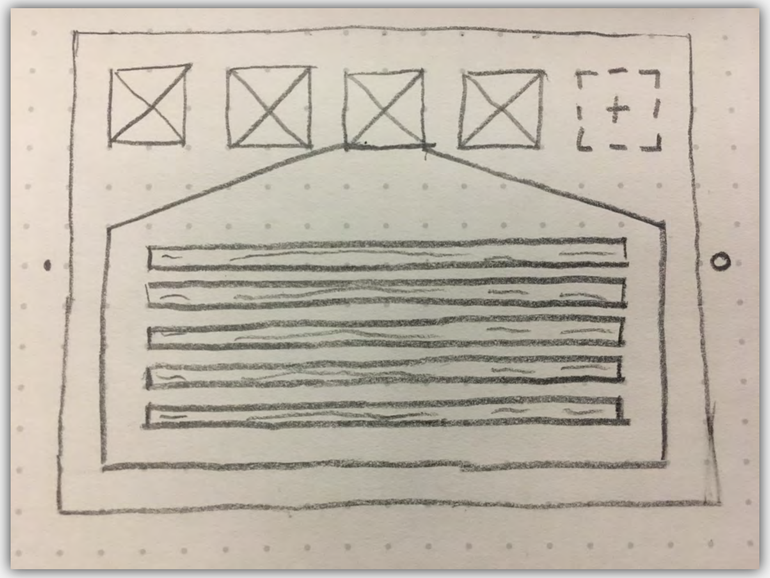

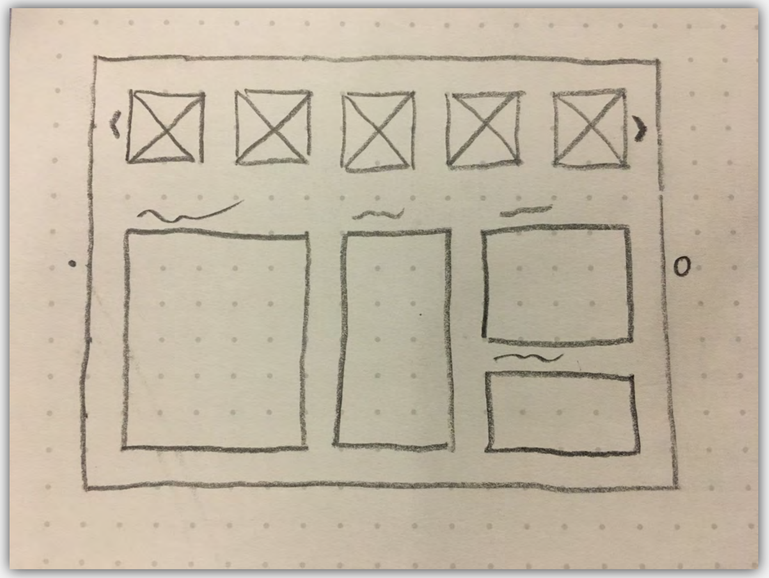

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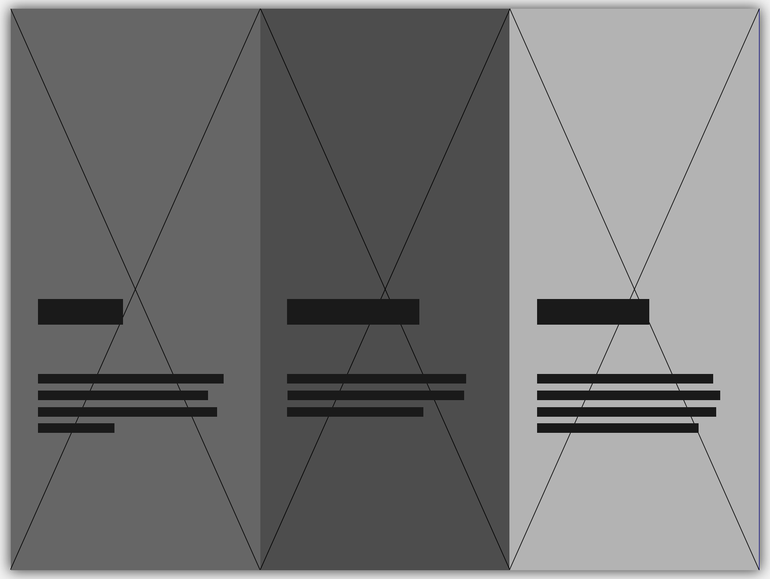

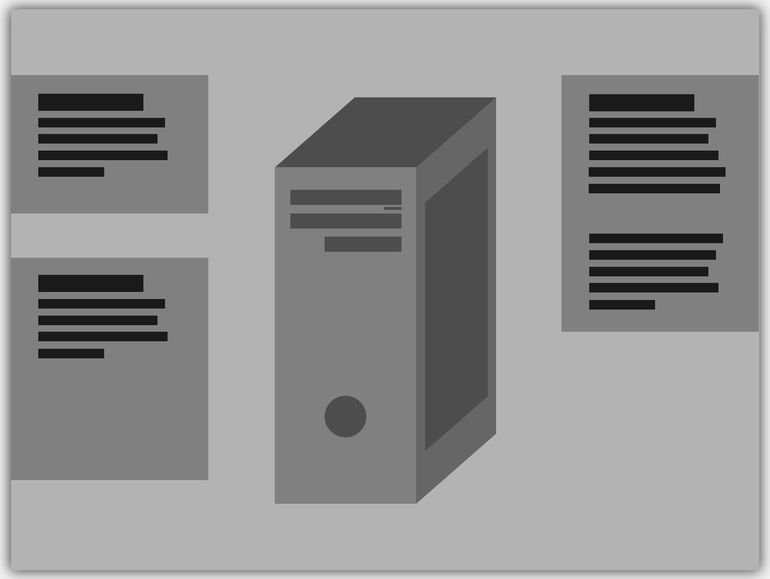

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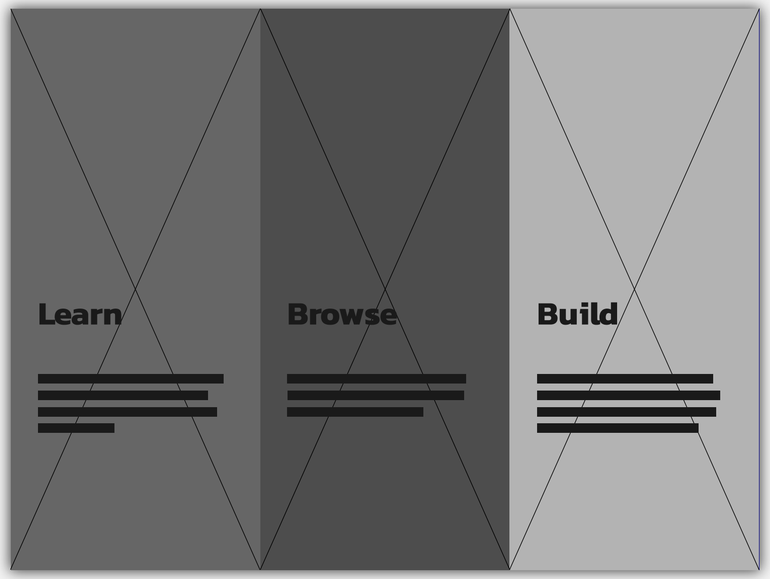

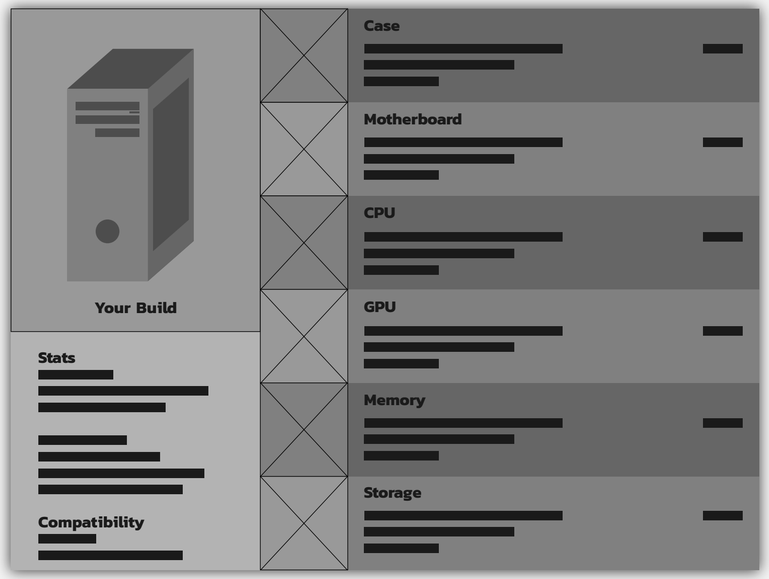

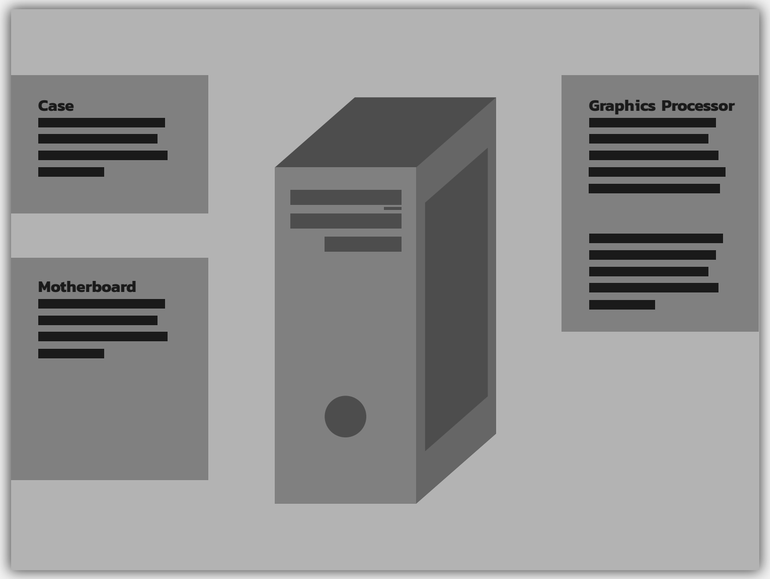

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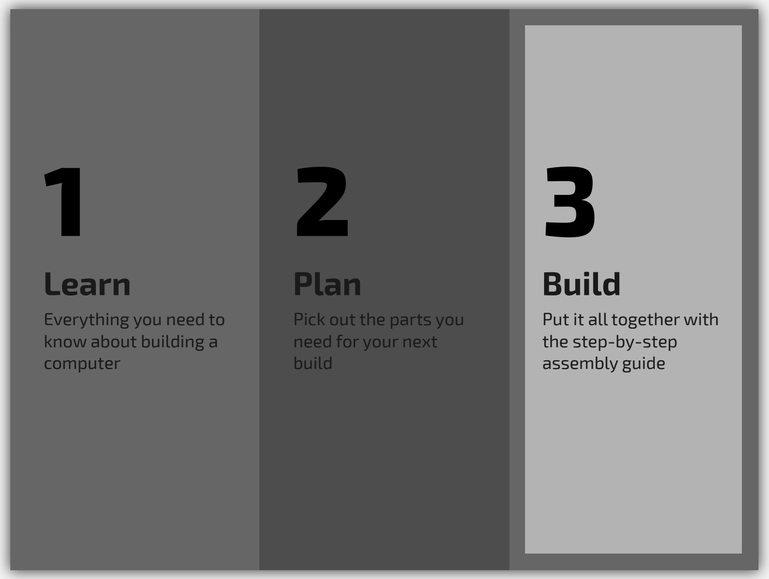
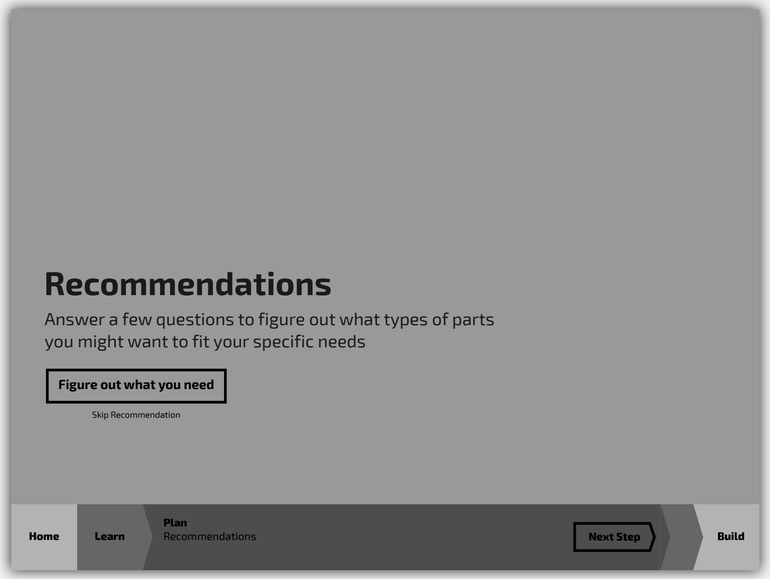
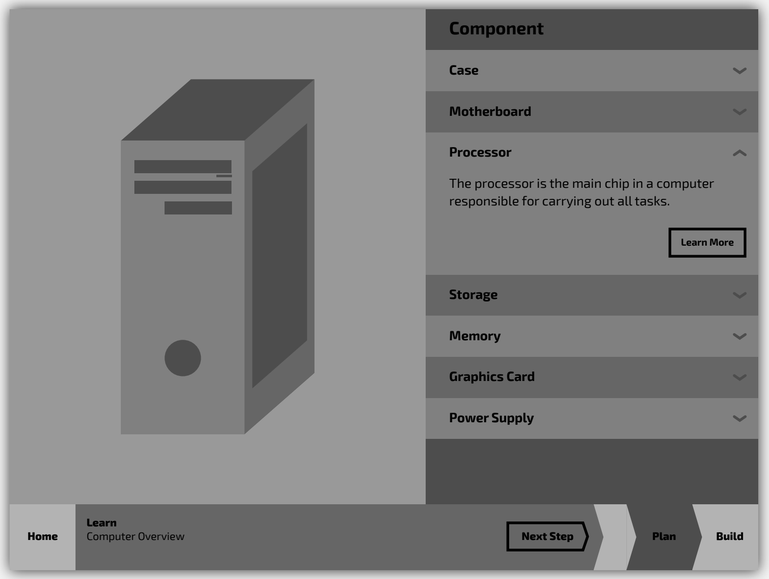






comps() {

Learn
Plan
Build

Build a PC

1

Learn

Everything you need to know about building a computer

2

Plan

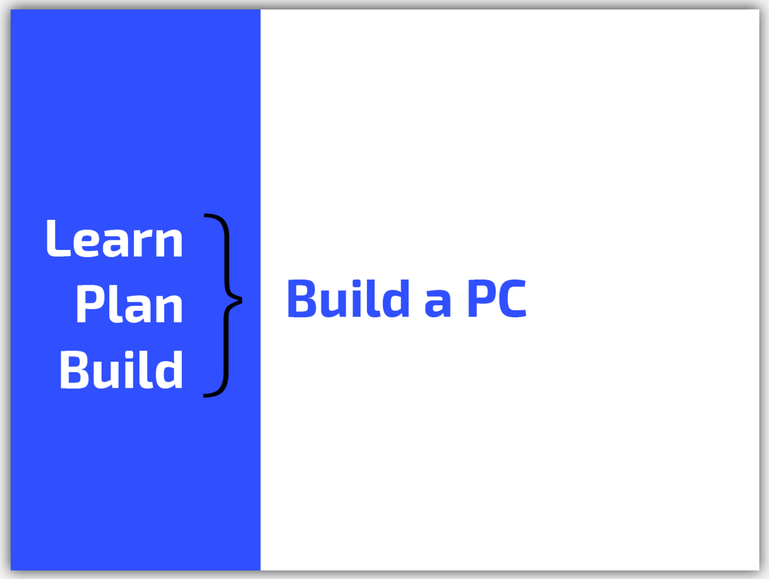
Pick out the parts you need for your next build

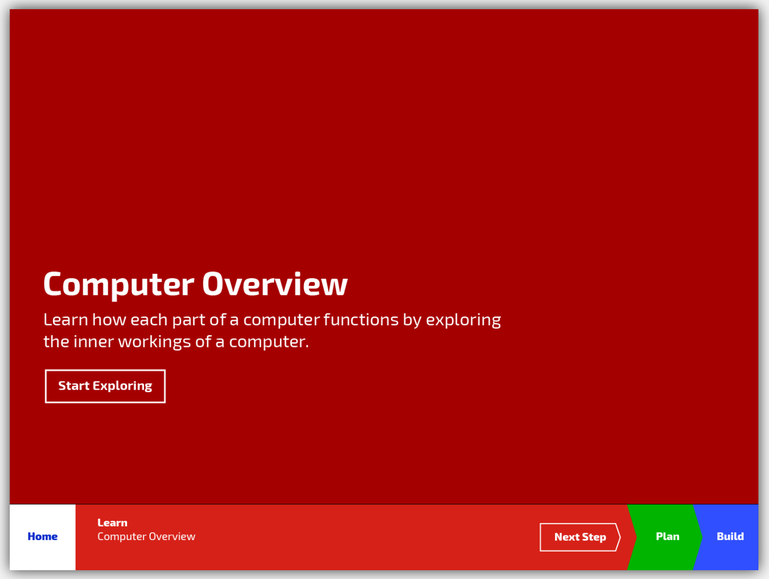
3

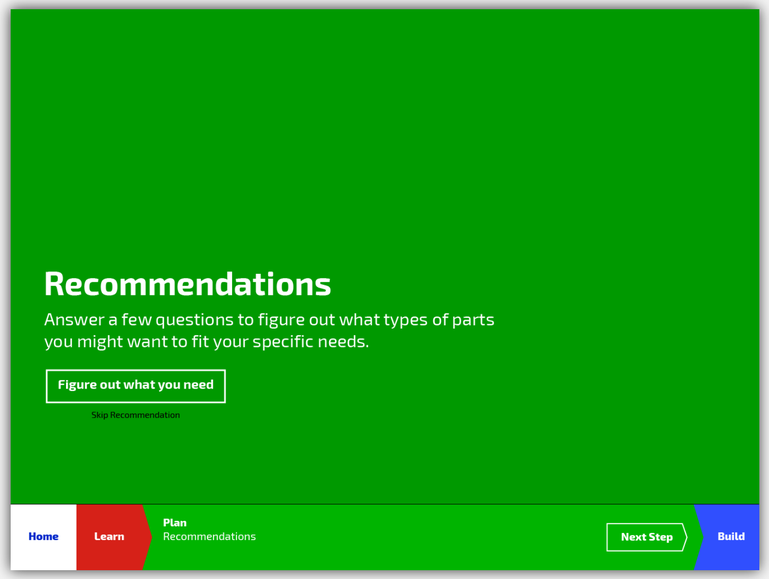
Build

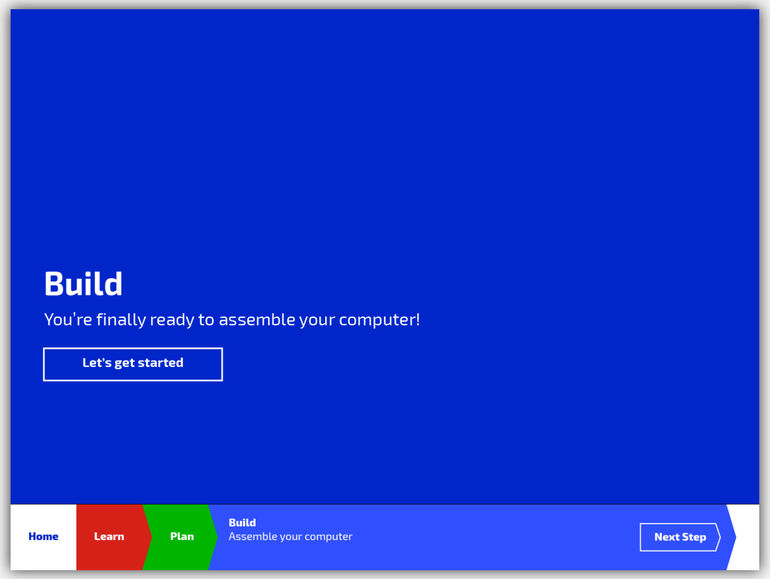
Put it all together with the step-by-step assembly guide

comps() {

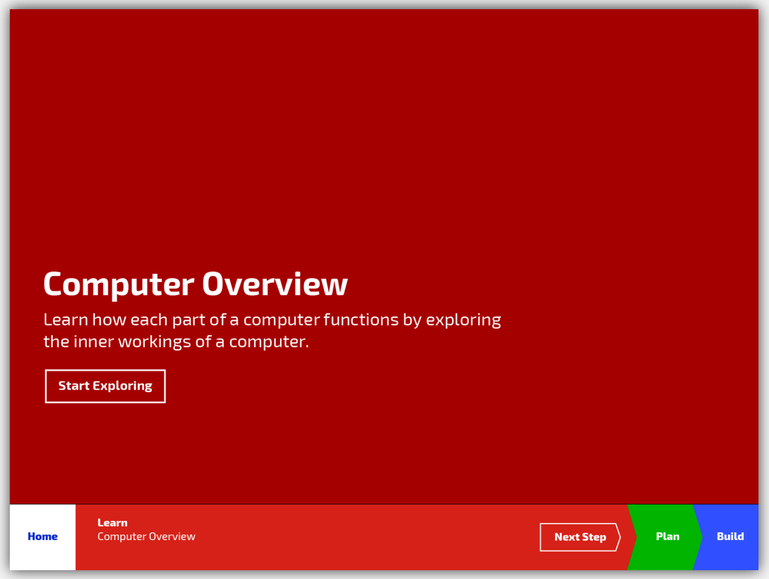

Learn
Plan
Build
Build a PC


Computer Overview
Learn how each part of a computer functions by exploring the inner workings of a computer.
Start Exploring
Home
Learn
Computer Overview
Next Step
Plan
Build


Recommendations
Answer a few questions to figure out what types of parts you might want to fit your specific needs.
Figure out what you need
Skip Recommendation
Home
Learn
Plan
Recommendations
Next Step
Build


Build
You're finally ready to assemble your computer!
Let's get started
Home
Learn
Plan
Build
Assemble your computer
Next Step

comps() {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Computer Overview
Next Step
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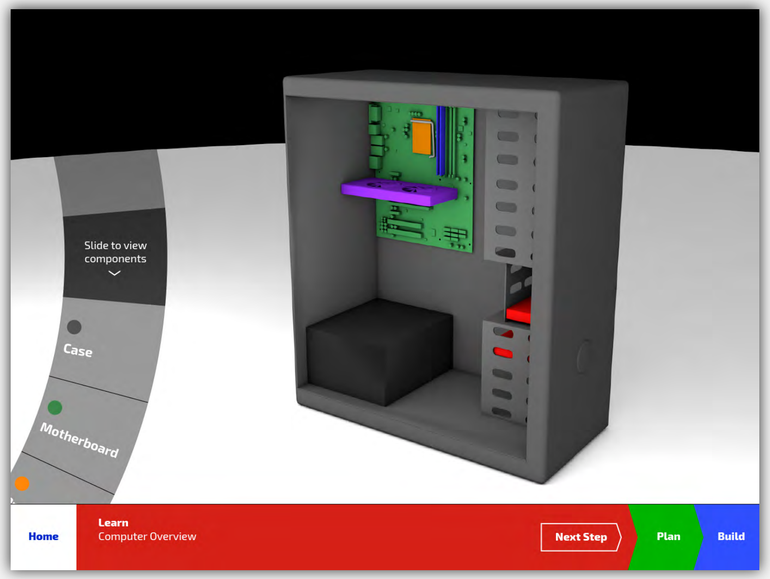
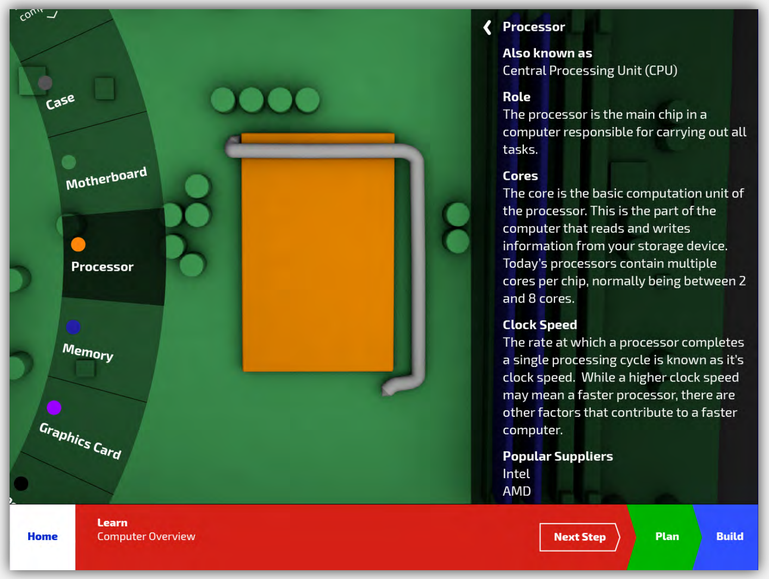
Build


Slide to view components
Case
Motherboard
Home
Learn
Computer Overview
Next Step
Plan
Build


Case
Motherboard
Processor
Memory
Graphics Card
Processor
Also known as
Central Processing Unit (CPU)
Role
The processor is the main chip in a computer responsible for carrying out all tasks.
Cores
The core is the basic computation unit of the processor. This is the part of the computer that reads and writes information from your storage device. Today's processors contain multiple cores per chip, normally being between 2 and 8 cores.
Clock Speed
The rate at which a processor completes a single processing cycle is known as it's clock speed. While a higher clock speed may mean a faster processor, there are other factors that contribute to a faster computer.
Popular Suppliers
Intel
AMD
Home
Learn
Computer Overview
Next Step
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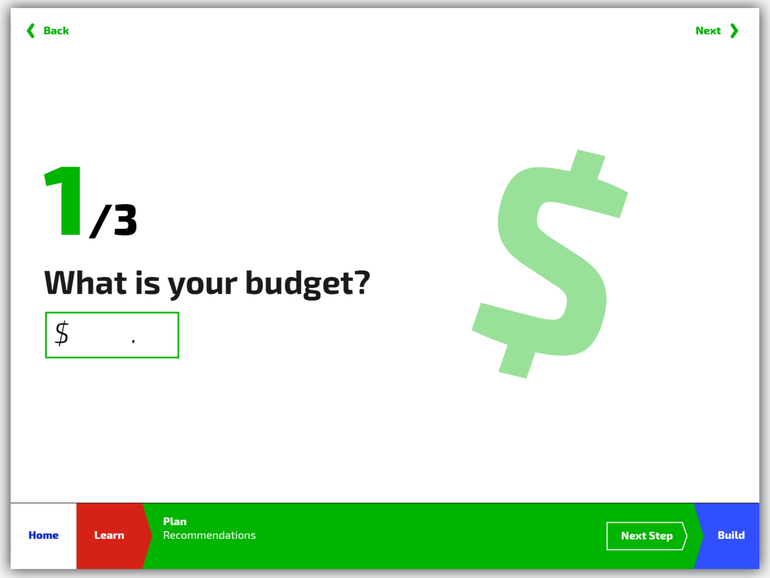
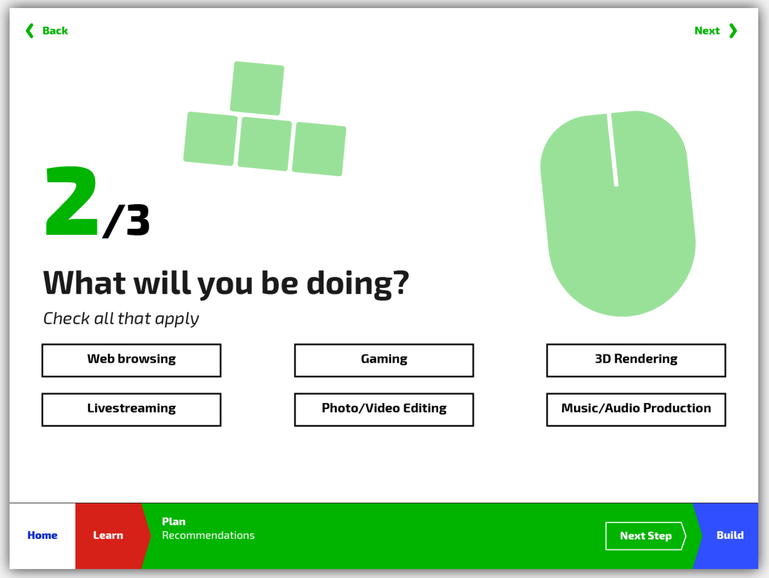
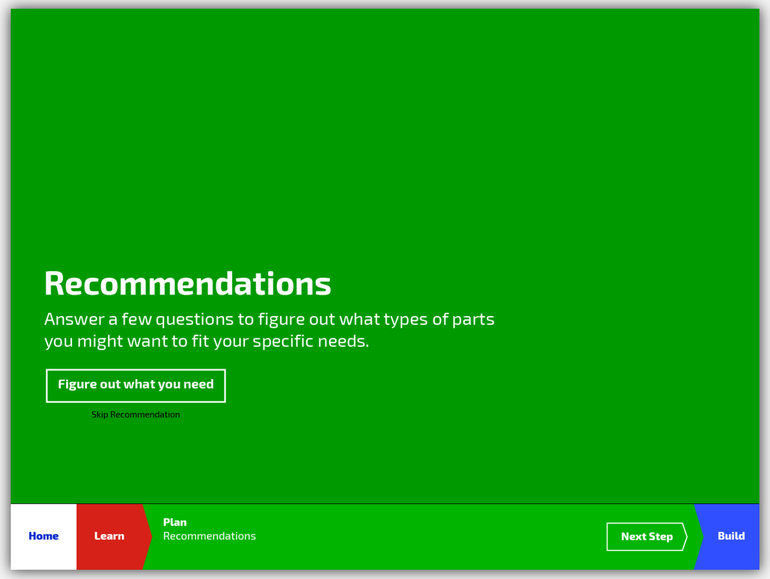
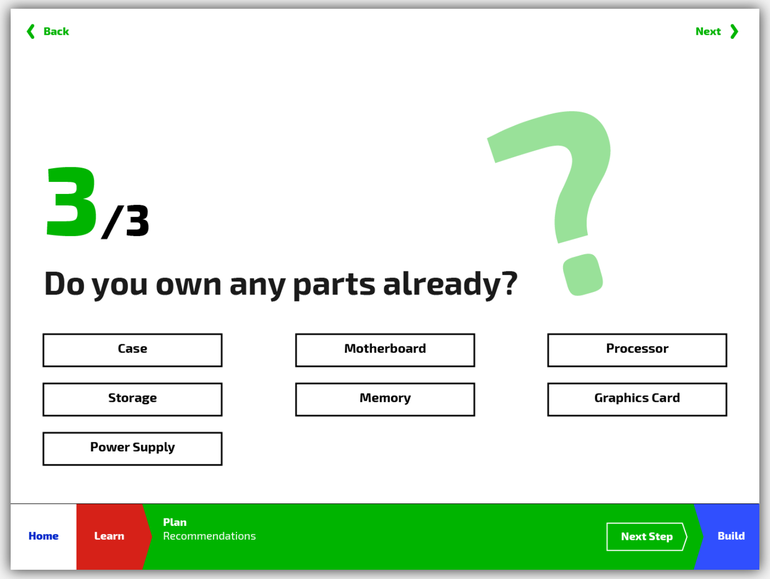
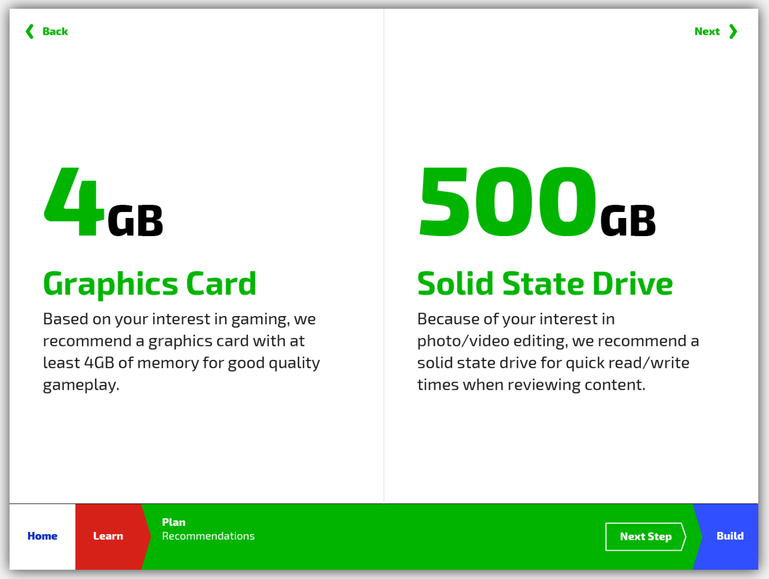
comps() {


Back
Next
1/3
What is your budget?
$.
Home
Learn
Plan
Recommendations
Next Step
Build

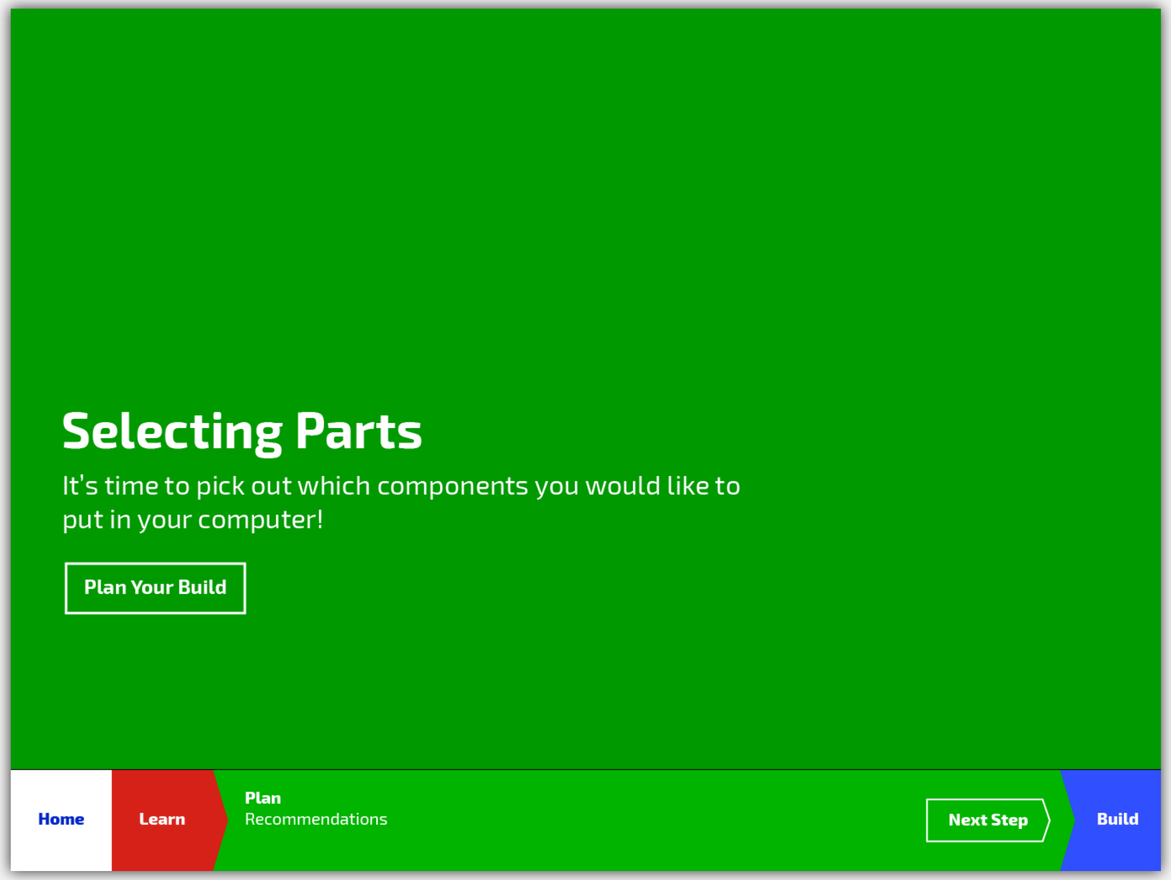

Back
Next
2/3
What will you be doing?
Check all that apply
Web browsing
Gaming
3D Rendering
Livestreaming
Photo/Video Editing
Music/Audio Production
Home
Learn
Plan
Recommendations
Next Step
Build

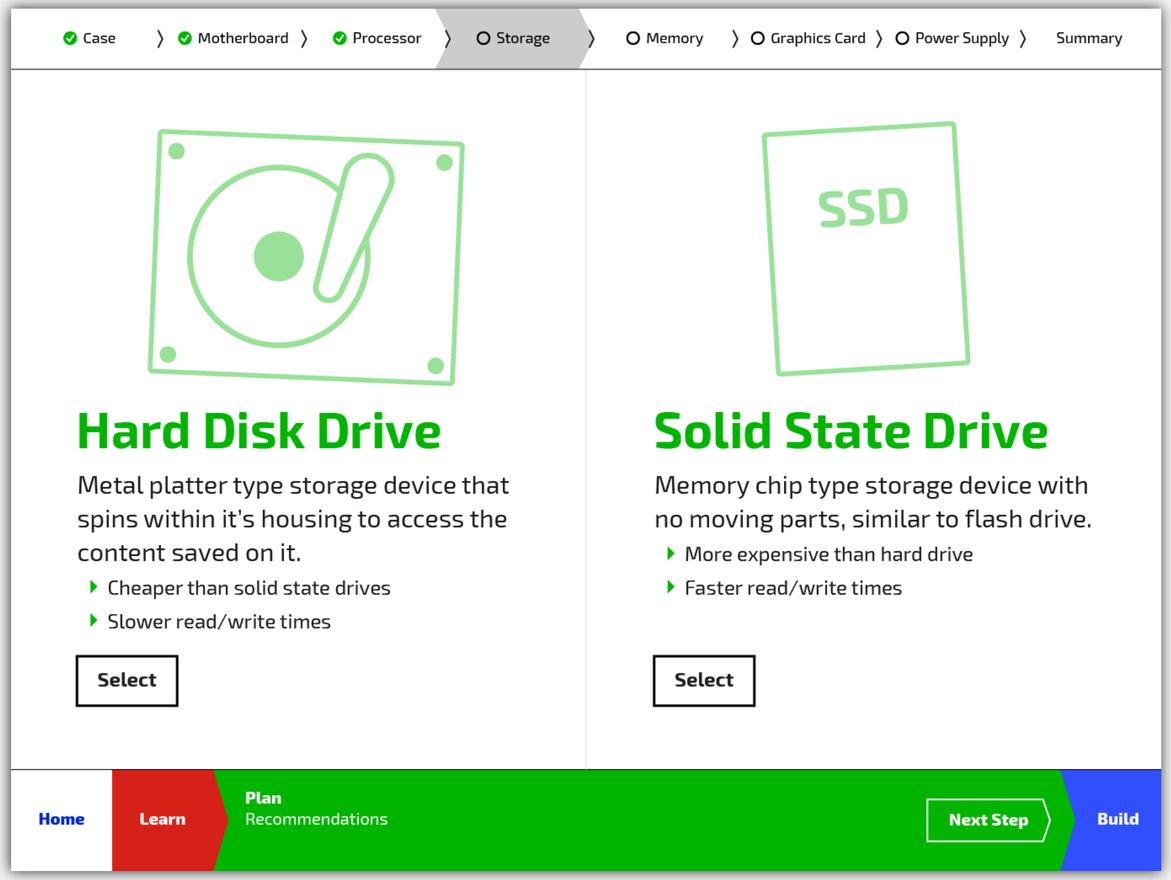

Recommendations
Answer a few questions to figure out what types of parts you might want to fit your specific needs.
Figure out what you need
Skip Recommendation
Home
Learn
Plan
Recommendations
Next Step
Build


Back
Next
3/3
Do you own any parts already?
Case
Motherboard
Processor
Storage
Memory
Graphics Card
Power Supply
Home
Learn
Plan
Recommendations
Next Step
Build

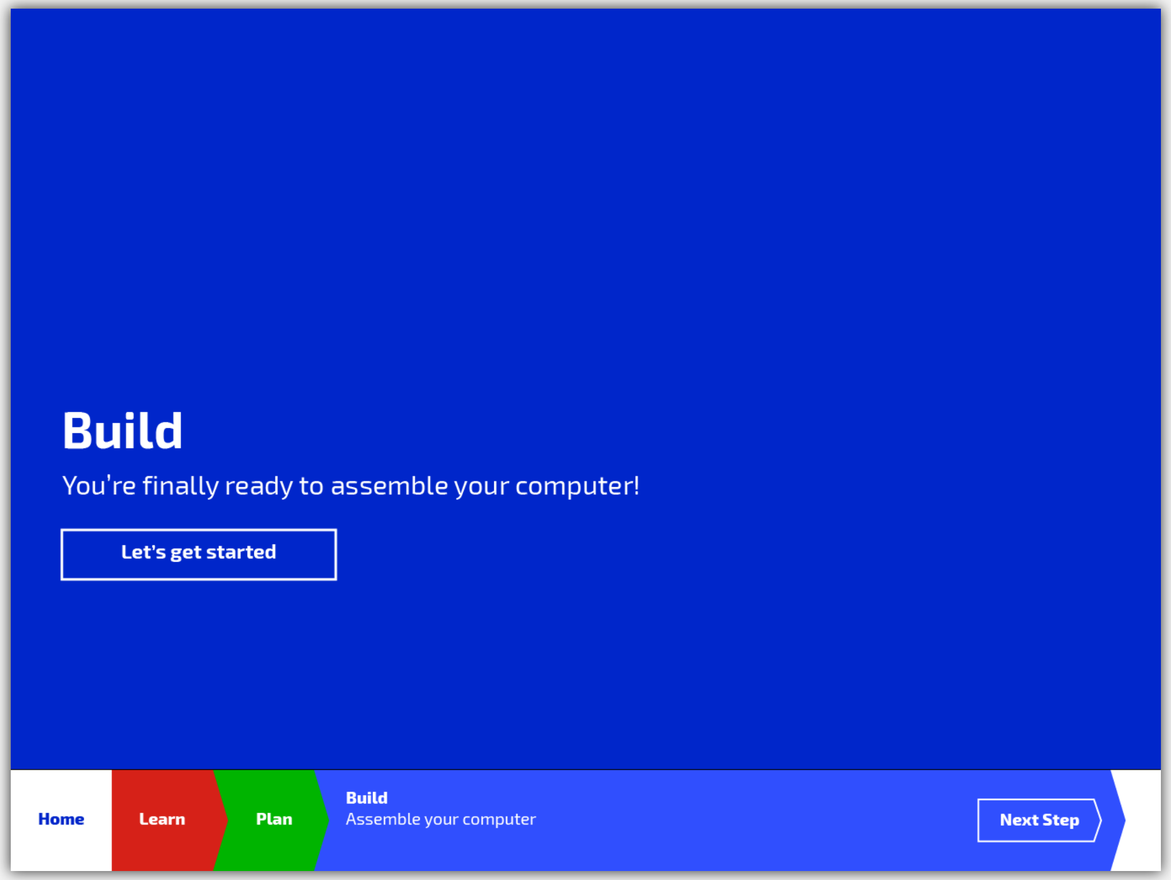

Back
Next
4GB
Graphics Card
Based on your interest in gaming, we recommend a graphics card with at least 4GB of memory for good quality gameplay.
500GB
Solid State Drive
Because of your interest in photo/video editing, we recommend a solid state drive for quick read/write times when reviewing content.
Home
Learn
Plan
Recommendations
Next Step
Build

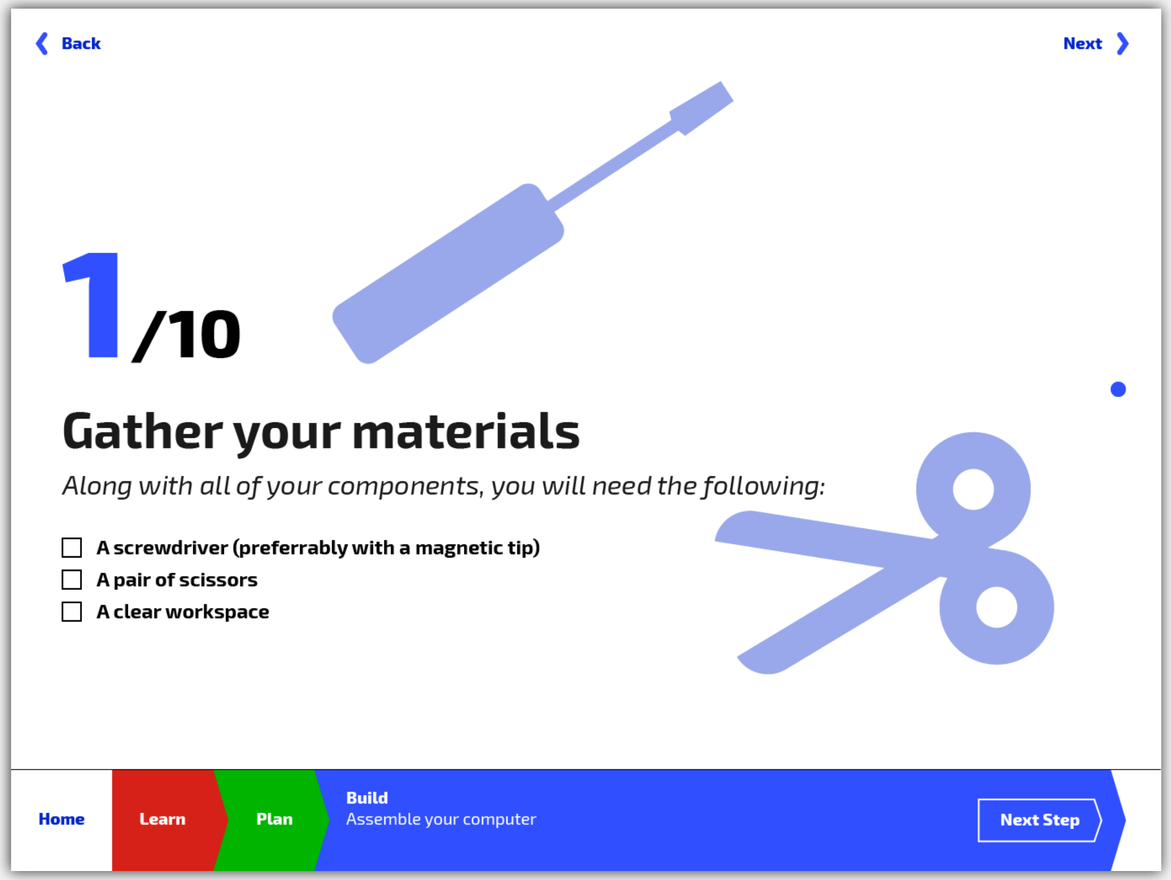
comps() {


Selecting Parts
It's time to pick out which components you would like to put in your computer!
Plan Your Build
Home
Learn
Plan
Recommendations
Next Step
Build


Case
Motherboard
Processor
Storage
Memory
Graphics Card
Power Supply
Summary
Hard Disk Drive
Metal platter type storage device that spins within it's housing to access the content saved on it.
Cheaper than solid state drives
Slower read/write times
Select
SSD
Solid State Drive
Memory chip type storage device with no moving parts, similar to flash drive.
More expensive than hard drive
Faster read/write times
Select
Home
Learn
Plan
Recommendations
Next Step
Build

comps() {


Build
You're finally ready to assemble your computer!
Let's get started
Home
Learn
Plan
Build
Assemble your computer
Next Step


Back
Next
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Gather your materials
Along with all of your components, you will need the following:
A screwdriver (preferrably with a magnetic tip)
A pair of scissors
A clear workspace
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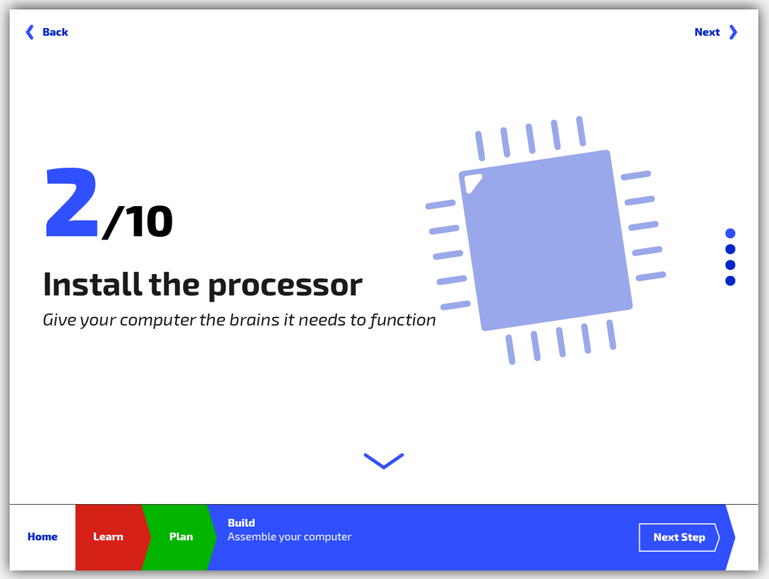
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Install the processor
Give your computer the brains it needs to function
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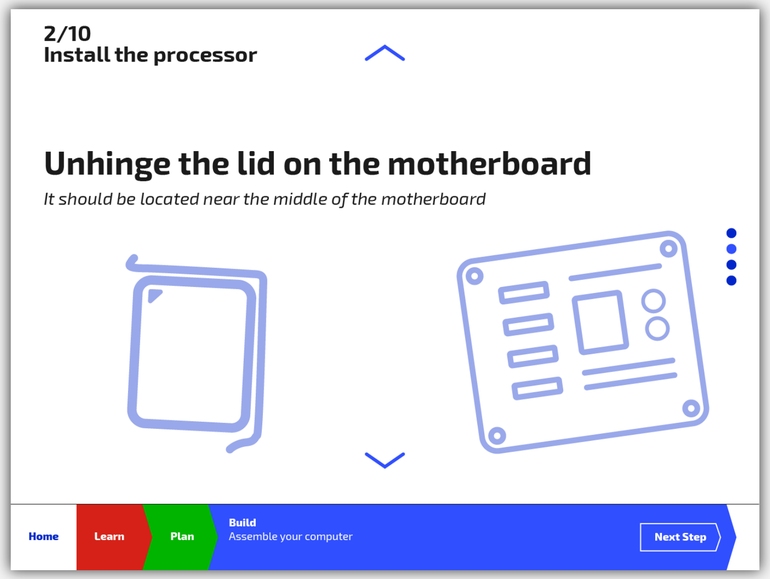
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Install the processor
Unhinge the lid on the motherboard
It should be located near the middle of the motherboard
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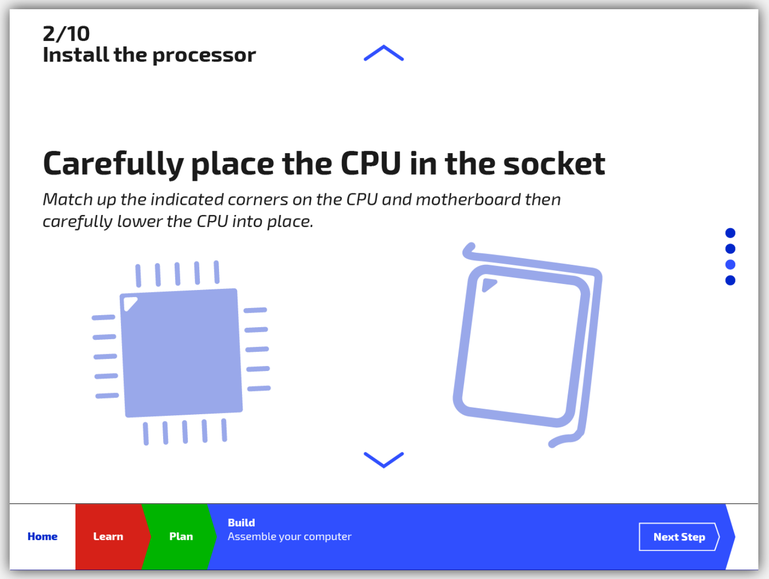
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Install the processor
Carefully place the CPU in the socket
Match up the indicated corners on the CPU and motherboard then carefully lower the CPU into place.
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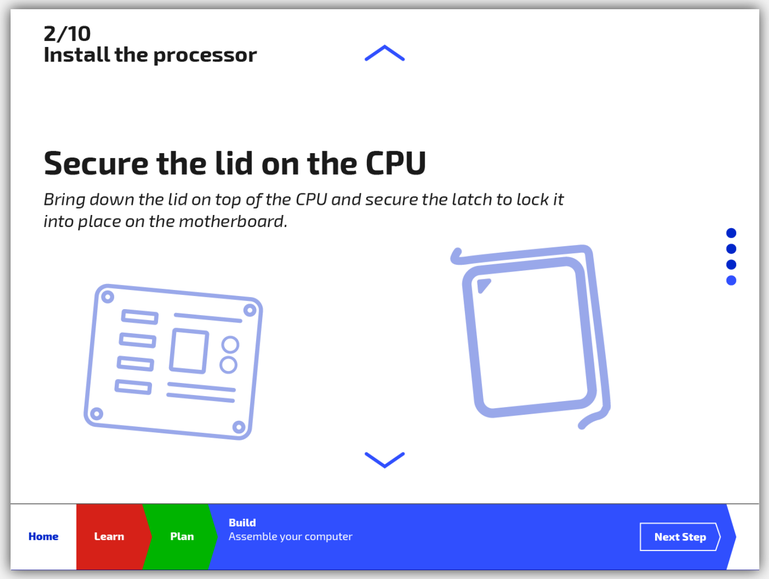
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Install the processor
Secure the lid on the CPU
Bring down the lid on top of the CPU and secure the latch to lock it into place on the motherboard.
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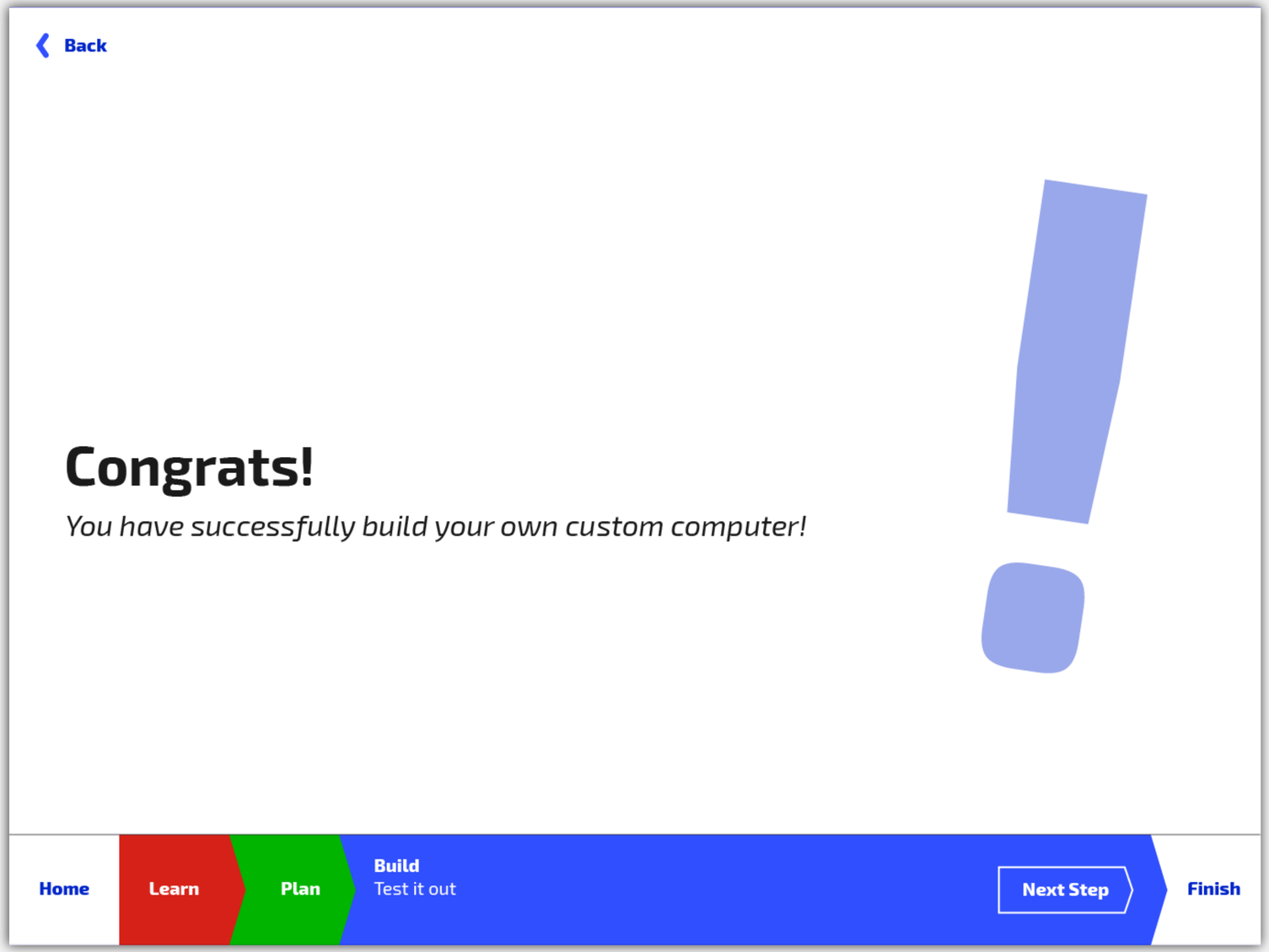
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Congrats!
You have successfully build your own custom computer!
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Finish

Animated prototype available on Vimeo

vimeo.com/268561805

thank you!