Lab 3 Conclusion

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This lab taught me a lot about the different operating parts of a computer. Probably my favorite part was labeling the different parts of the computer. It is amazing to me how many components go into making a computer work. It was also interesting to see how all the different parts are connected.

It was also interesting installing the operating system. Once it was installed, my partner and I looked at all the hardware that automatically installs with the operating system. It is amazing how much hardware is on the computer and how much of an abstraction a computer really is. We kept diving deeper and deeper into the hardware schemes. Looking at different hardware components and the drivers they needed to function along with other information that the operating system displays. I feel like I know computers fairly well but being able to take them apart and research more, I feel like there is now so much I don’t know.

Just like with any lab, we came across problems as well. When we were trying to install the second hard drive, whenever we would format it we got an error saying it wasn’t formatted correctly. We followed the instructions word for word several times, but we never got the hard drive to successfully install. It would say that it was installed, but when we tried to save on it, a prompt told us we needed to format the drive before we saved (which we had already done). The lab assistant told us that the secondary hard drive could be corrupted for some reason, disallowing us to install it correctly. It just shows how sensitive hardware is. It is an amazing feat that computers are as reliable as they are, considering all of the components that go into them and all the things that can go wrong.

One main thing I learned in this lab is to be thankful for all the genius engineers that came before me, making the computer what it is today. The levels of abstraction going into making a computer easy to use for everyone is remarkable. I’m glad I was able to tear some layers of abstraction down and gain at least an overview of how the hardware components in a computer function.