

CSE 101 Reading - 02

Unless otherwise specified, all reading and/or viewing of supplemental videos is expected to be completed before your next class session meets. Assigned reading / videos a) represent supplemental material to the day's class presentation, b) provide additional information to help you complete the day's homework, or c) represent advance preparation material for the next class day where it will be assumed you have completed such reading / viewing. Not having readings / video completed may inhibit your understanding of new class material.

Readings/Videos about Computers

What is a Computer?

Read the following few pages to revisit what a computer is:

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer>
- <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-computer.htm>
- <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/computerbasics>

Review the following lessons (these pages include some nice videos as well as narrative explanations):

- 1 – Getting to know computers (video portion – 0:02:39)
- 5 – Basic Parts of a Desktop Computer (video portion – 0:02:08)
- 6 – Buttons, Sockets and Slots on a Desktop Computer (video portion – 0:03:07)
- 7 – Inside a Desktop Computer (video portion – 0:02:19)

Computer Components Review

Read the short online article at <http://www.wikihow.com/Choose-Components-for-Building-a-Computer> (steps 1 – 8 and Things You'll Need section) and answer the following questions:

1. What is the first thing you should do before assembling a computer?
2. Why is it important to select a computer motherboard and CPU (processor) at the same time?
3. What types of hard drives perform faster? What impact does RPM have on computer performance? What purpose does a hard drive cache serve?
4. Who are the two major CPU suppliers?
5. Why do I need both RAM memory and a hard disk in my computer?

Full disclosure: this article is slightly dated and some components listed are no longer the "best". However, the description of components and their relationship to each other is still valid.

Review the following videos / slideshows:

- <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/23-computer-tour-video.htm> (video portion 0:03:24)