



The Latest News from More Power Computers

RAM & Graphics Cards; Now Is The Time To Upgrade Or Replace!

DDR3 RAM is here, and as the new memory type comes onto the market the old memory type becomes cheaper. It's the same cycle we've seen before. DDR1 RAM started higher, then became cheaper as it became the standard. DDR1 was cheapest just as DDR2 started to take it's place. But once DDR2 was the standard, DDR1 became more expensive. For the last 2 months the cost of DDR2 RAM has been falling as DDR3 is taking over. If you've

bought a computer within the last few weeks to last few years then now is the time to buy more RAM while it's cheap and you can get better performance out of your system. Even if your system is older and has DDR1 RAM, get more now before cost goes up again or it becomes less available.

Related products that use RAM, such as graphics cards, will also be a great value. For example, one of our technicians built his gaming PC this summer and spent over \$330 on a 9600GT graphics card. That same card is now about one-third the cost. Cheaper cost is great news for those who bought a new video game for Christmas only to find it did not work. Many games require graphics cards or more RAM or both. Check the side of

the box the game came in, or the game website, for minimum system requirements. However, having a better graphics card and more RAM won't do any good if the processor you have is too slow for the game. Also, if you're getting a powerful graphics card, it might need a more



powerful power supply with a separate power connector for the card, so check out your computer before investing your money.



Did You Build An Awesome Gaming System But It's Still Really Slow?

Why are speed limits so low? Because different vehicles share one road the speed limit is set up to accommodate for the slowest moving traffic. This is also true when computer components have to work together. Faster components will slow down to work with slower ones. When designing a system, consider that one part may negate the performance of another part. Something that can really slow

down a new computer is salvaging old technology from an old computer. For example, the IDE drive from an old tower may still work but it runs a lot slower than the new SATA drives. Put the IDE drive in an enclosure as a back up drive, but use a new SATA hard drive in your tower. Matching RAM modules for speed and memory size is also important. But what if your tower hardware is per-

fect? One possibility is malicious software. Spyware can really slow down a computer. For more on this, see our previous issue (Volume 1, Issue 4). Another bottleneck where performance can suffer is your internet connection. If several computers are using the same router in your home, it will be slower. As for wired versus wireless routers, please see the next page.

More Power Computers, Inc.

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Special points of
interest:

- > DDR2 Ram At An All-Time Low Cost!
- > Did You Get A Game For Christmas That Won't Play?
- > Before Spending Money On Upgrades Check The Minimum System Requirements For Your Game.

> What's The Impact Of Using Old Components? Faster Components Will Slow Down To Work With Slower Components.

> If You Got What You Wanted For Christmas, Now Is The Time To Make It Even Better!



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Do You Have A Need For Speed?

If you have high speed internet but are going through a wireless router, you're probably already aware that the farther away you get from the router the lower your signal gets, and thus your speed drops. At this time your best performance is still a wired connection. Wired connections at either 100Mbps or 1000Mbps (gigabit) will, at this time, outperform wireless connections. The network upgrade that I would focus on for LAN gamers would be to upgrade from 100Mbps equipment to 1000Mbps (gigabit) equipment. For on-line gamers this upgrade will not

have much effect, if any, on their overall experience. This is because the limiting factor in their scenario is the speed of their internet connection. As of yet, there is no internet connection available (at a reasonable price for consumers) that will require a local connection speed greater than 100Mbps. Even though the theoretical speed of Wireless Draft-N is roughly 300Mbps, you won't find a manufacturer that will guarantee that speed in their products. Wireless in general is simply too prone to interference which will ultimately hinder the overall throughput. The last

wireless type is called "Draft N" because it hasn't even been fully ratified by the commission that was setup to develop wireless standards. The following is a chart that shows the theoretical top speeds for each type of wired and wireless connection.

Table with 2 columns: Connection Type and Top Speed. Rows include Wireless B (11 Mbps), Wireless G (54 Mbps), Wireless "Super G" (108 Mbps), Wireless "Draft-N" (300 Mbps), Wired 10/100 (Standard) (100 Mbps), and Wired 1000 (Gigabit) (1000 Mbps).

