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## Northern Computer Connection

What else is in your computer? Last month Paul discussed the motherboard and this month he talks about the CPU, part 2 of our series.

Need to connect your home PCs? Mark talks about solutions for setting up a peer to peer network at home.

## What the Heck's In My Computer? - Part 2

### Part 2 - The CPU - The Brains and Muscle

The CPU or central processing unit (shorthand is processor or microprocessor) is both the brains and the muscle of your computer. It does all the heavy lifting when it comes to executing instructions from your programs. In other words allowing them to run and do what you need them to. It is also generally the most expensive part in any computer. CPUs have come from a number of manufacturers over the years including IBM, AMD, and the best known and market leader Intel. In past years there



was far more competition between companies making processors but Intel has emerged as the mainstream giant with only AMD as competition . CPUs are at the heart of many consumer devices such as smart phones, tablets and even cable set

top boxes.

In the past buying a computer was as simple as numbers -

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Tips and Tricks



*"The CPU is both the brains and muscle of your computer."*

Coming up next month...

**Do I Need to Upgrade my System?**



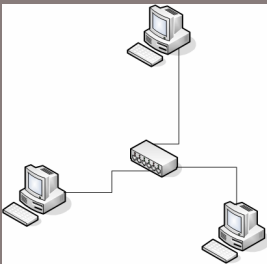
more was better. So a 2.5 gigahertz (internal clock speed) processor was always faster than 1.5 gigahertz. Easy. For computer CPUs there was a fundamental shift in design about 5 years ago.

Click [here](#) to finish reading the article.

- Paul C, Service Bench Supervisor

## Peer to Peer Networks

This is a heavy title for a small article. Anybody in IT, at some point gets called upon to do a small peer to peer network for someone, often family or friends and often with great trepidation. It's not that peer to peer networks are unreliable. A properly setup peer network is as reliable as any other. The problem is people.



As soon as the second PC rolled off the assembly line, someone wanted to connect it to the first one. This is the core of networking. Early on it was Lantastic, Banyan Vines, Windows for Workgroups and a dozen others. Microsoft dominated the market, and now most peer networking is a component of the Operating system. Peer networking (or P2P) has continued to evolve into a separate existence, with music sharing programs like Itunes, Limewire and such.

So the call comes. Uncle Bob and Aunt May want to network. Originally they had one computer and shared it, until Uncle Bob figured out how to download a Halle Berry Wallpaper. This was the end of 'sharing the computer.' Aunt May wanted a computer of her own. In came a new computer for Aunt May (uncle Bob had to keep the old, 'filthy' computer) and a router. Each has their own email address, and life was sweet again...Until the pictures start arriving. Turns out that Uncle Bob and Aunt May actually have lives, and interact with different people. Click [here](#) to finish reading this article.

Mark S, Northern Computer Network Support Technician

## What the heck's in my computer - Part 3/The Hard Drive



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*"There are alot of threats out there and more get developed everyday"*

Remote Support

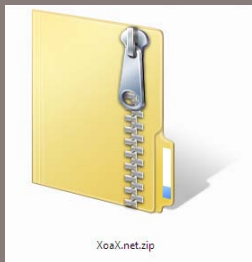
Need Help?

Article Originally Published in Network Professional  
Journal <http://www.npa.org>

## Tips and Tricks

### How to Compress a File

Some files are too big to be sent over the internet and it is often necessary to "compress" them to make them smaller so that they can be sent more quickly. The files are not



damaged or changed, just stored in a different way. A good analogy is to think of it like taking a large letter, folding it up and putting it inside a small envelope. You send the envelope which now takes up less space, but at the other end the

envelope can be opened and the large letter folded out again. The contents can now be "extracted" back to their original size and used as normal.

To compress a file with Windows XP, Vista or 7 follow these instructions:

1. Create a new folder and cut or copy all of the files the you would like to compress into the folder
2. Right click on the folder and select Send To from the menu which appears
3. Select Compressed (zipped) Folder from the list of options
4. Attach the compressed folder (with the .zip extension) to your email

To uncompress the files:



We provide online help from  
8AM to 5PM Monday to  
Friday.

**Contact us at:**

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1.Right click on the compressed

2.Select Extract All from the menu which appears

3.This will open the Windows Extraction wizard

4.Click Next to extract the files

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