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Northern Computer Connection

In the last few issues, Paul has discussed the components of a PC - "What the Heck's In Your Computer". Paul has done a great job explaining in a non-techy, easy to understand language about the CPU, motherboard and hard drive. This month he wraps things up with your computers memory - the RAM.

Have you thought about making the upgrade to Windows 7? If so, read Marks article below about the pros and cons of upgrading.

What the Heck's In My Computer? - Part 4

Part 4 - Computer Memory - RAM

Memory, also called RAM (random access memory) is another component that deserves some focus since it has evolved in the personal computer over the years. There is fast cache ram on processors and hard drives but the best known memory is the type configured in sticks and added to slots in the motherboard. This is the main system ram. The best analogy I know of for what function ram provides is as follows: it is like the surface or workspace on the top of your desk -

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In This Issue

[What the Heck's In My Computer - Part 4?](#)
[Thinking of Upgrading to Windows 7?](#)
[Tips and Tricks](#)



Phone Scam



Phone scam - Fraudulent protection software for your computer. See the full story on castanet. <http://t.co/po25eqc>

RAM

"Ram is like the surface or workspace on the top of your desk - the larger the surface is



the larger the surface is (the more ram you have) the more documents you can lay out and access quickly - with too little desk space (or ram) you begin to need to pile up documents and access to them slows down as you search for them through piles- you work slower and far less efficiently. With extra RAM your computer runs smooth and fast. With too little RAM your computer slows and reacts in a choppy fashion as you have used up physical RAM and now windows is using your hard drive as virtual RAM. Remember your hard drive is exponentially slower than real RAM.

In days gone by upgrades to computers were very popular, everything from CPUs to video to hard drives. Many of those upgrades have fallen out of favor and no longer make sense financially. Currently the best value in upgrades is more RAM. Adding RAM improves many aspects of computer function for relatively not much money.

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

- Paul C, Service Bench Supervisor

Upgrading to Windows 7

As of April 7th, 2009, Microsoft has ended support of Windows XP, the longest running operating system in history. The latest version, Windows 7 is now widely available, and has become the primary operating system available from all leading vendors. Windows 7 is available in 3 distinct versions,

(the more ram you have) the more documents you can lay out and access quickly..."

Coming up next month...

The different versions of MS Office & Valuable Shortcuts



Need help? - Remote support



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Home Premium, Professional, and Ultimate. Windows 7 has provided some major enhancements. The look and feel is just different enough to throw off your average user, but many of these changes reflect on Microsoft's commitment to improving the user's experience. It really depends on your level of experience as well as ability to adapt as to how successful you make this transition.

User Authentication Control has dramatically improved the security, if you choose to leave the feature enabled. UAC was first introduced in Vista, the previous Windows version. It was not well received and suffered from many problems, which eventually forced many users to disable it entirely. Many early users of Windows 7 have chosen to disable this feature and so have the technicians who work with it.



Windows 7 fully supports modern computers running 64bit architecture. "Oh good" says the average user, as he scratches his head wondering what that means. Basically, today's hardware has a lot of additional power that a traditional 32bit operating system like Windows XP can't utilize. Windows 7 will run much faster than Windows XP if you were to install it on similar hardware. Generally a newer version will run slower when installed on the same hardware.

"Great! I want to upgrade today" is your first thought. "I want a faster computer, without buying new hardware." If only that were true.... As you have probably experienced in the past, it isn't always that easy.

Click [here](#) to finish article

- Mark S, Network Support Technician

Tips and Tricks

Windows 7

"Windows 7 has great support for older devices (printers, scanners, motherboards), but it's not going to fully support all devices..."

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Remote Support

Need Help?

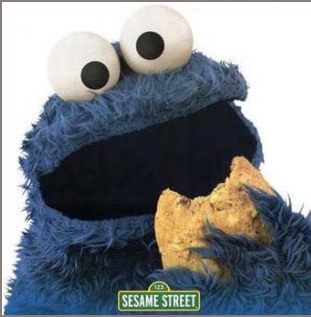


We provide online help from 8AM to 5PM Monday to Friday.

Contact us at:

Mmmm.... Cookies

A cookie is a small file created by a web browser at the request of a web site, which is then stored on your



computer. Cookies typically store user-specific information or preferences, such as selections in a form, shopping cart contents, or authentication data. Web browsers will normally clear cookies that reach a certain age, but clearing them manually may

solve problems with web sites, your browser itself, or even other programs. It is good practice to clear your cookies on a regular basis (and other Temporary Internet files as well). Depending on what web browser you prefer to use, the process to clear those cookies may differ.

For Internet Explorer 9:

Tap the Alt key to display the menu bar and select "Tools", or click on the Tools sprocket/gear icon in the upper right hand corner.

1. Select "Internet Options"
2. Under the General tab you will see a heading for "Browsing history". Click the "Delete" button.
3. The options available will likely already be selected for Temporary Internet files, Cookies, and History. Clicking the "Delete" button at the bottom of this page will clear all of the cookies stored from Internet Explorer.

Alternatively, you can tell Internet Explorer 9 to automatically delete your browsing history every time you close the web browser by also selecting the "Delete browsing history on exit" option in step 3 above.

- Clay P, Network Support Technician

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