



Lab 1.1.3 PC Hardware

Objective

- Become familiar with the basic peripheral components of a PC computer system.
- Identify PC connections including network attachment.
- Examine the internal PC configuration and identify major components.
- Observe the boot process for the Windows operating system.
- Use the Control Panel to find out information about the PC.

Background

Knowing the components of a PC is valuable when troubleshooting. This knowledge is also important to success in the networking field.

Before beginning, the instructor or lab assistant should have a typical desktop PC available with all peripherals. Peripherals include the keyboard, monitor, mouse, speakers or head phones, a network interface card (NIC) and network cable. The system unit cover should be removed. If the cover is not removed, the tools should be provided to remove it. Work individually or in teams. In addition, the instructor needs to identify the location of the A+ or PC hardware training materials.

Step 1 Examine the computer and peripheral components

Examine the computer and peripheral components both front and back.

Note: The components and configuration of the PC may vary.

What are the manufacturer and model number of this computer?

Manufacturer:	
Model Number:	

What are the major external components of the PC including the peripherals?

Component Name	Manufacturer / Description / Characteristics
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Step 2 Remove the PC system unit cover and examine internal components

List at least 8 major internal components inside the system unit. Use the procedure in step 5 to find the CPU and amount of RAM.

Component Name	Manufacturer / Description / Characteristics
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Step 3 Assemble the PC components observe the boot process

Assemble the PC components, attach all peripherals, and boot the PC. Observe the boot process. The computer should boot to the Windows operating system. If the computer does not boot, contact the lab assistant. Observe the boot process.

Did the Windows operating system boot right? _____

Did the screen show how much memory there was as the system was booting? _____

Step 4 Gather basic information about the computer CPU and RAM

Click the **Start** button. Select **Settings** then **Control Panel**. Click on the **System** icon and then the **General** tab. View the information about the computer using the operating system.

What is the Central Processing Unit? _____

What is the speed in MHz of the CPU? _____

How much RAM is installed? _____