Understanding Your PC—Part 3

The primary purpose of your computer is to process data, called bytes, and then transfer this information to its intended destination, such as your monitor, hard drive, or printer. This processing and transferring of information could not happen successfully without it being managed and coordinated. This coordination is the primary job of

The Motherboard

The motherboard, or 'main board' as it is also called, is made from layers of a plastic substance called PCB, and is coated with tiny strips of alloy metal containing a percentage of gold. These strips enable the electricity carrying data to be sent to all the computer components. As its name suggests, the motherboard mothers or looks after each component, which are either directly plugged into the motherboard or attached to it via cables. Electricity is the carrier for PC data, and each component relies on the mother-board to regulate its information.

Your computer's motherboard is designed specifically for the components you have inside your computer. There are many different types of configurations available among computers, and therefore there are different types of motherboards to suit, all with individual capabilities. For example, if you have an Intel brand processor, then you must have a motherboard capable of supporting Intel processors. If you have an AMD brand processor, you must have a motherboard capable of supporting AMD processors. These different technologies do not mix, and so you must check the specifications of your particular motherboard when considering an upgrade.

Another issue with motherboards today is that of built-ins. Built-ins refer to the practice by motherboard manufacturers of building into the motherboard many components previously used as plug-ins. The main built-in thus changed by manufacturers and af-fecting many of our customers, is the video card. To save costs, the video card is now a chip molded into many motherboards. This has several drawbacks. The main one is that the built-in video card does not have the 3D graphics accelerator function required by many games. This presents the PC owner with no option but to upgrade their video card, if they want to play these games.

As with all computer components, a motherboard must be reliable and of a good quality. With these cold mornings, as with anything electrical, if there is a fault in the motherboard, it will show up when you go to start your computer. All computers emit a short beep shortly after starting, as a sign the internal testing was completed successfully. This test checks the major parts of the motherboard, and if successful moves on to check the memory, processor, and video card. If you do not hear this short beep, it is quite likely your motherboard is at fault, and you should call your computer technician.

For any of your PC questions or problems, you are welcome to call us on 0419 790 071, or email us at info@mcsyarraman.com.au.