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Subject: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Apache](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 06:57:39 GMT

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Hey guys!

I came home this afternoon to find my computer stone dead. By doing some basic troubleshooting, I've found out that my motherboard gave up the ghost. I'm on the little 700 mhz laptop I use for tuning my truck up, and while it works, I'd really like to get a new desktop up and running ASAP.

I'd like to build my own setup, so I don't wind up with a prefab loaded with cheap parts that are gonna fail right away, and while I don't do any heavy gaming at the moment, I would like a machine that can run games in the future.

Since only my motherboard died, I've got the 120 gig hard disk, 512 MB of DDR RAM, 550 watt power supply, ATI 9800 All-In-Wonder Pro 128 mb video card, DVD-RW drive, and CD-ROM drive from the old computer to use.

I'd like to run between 2.8 - 3.0 GHz using a good processor (I'm not partial to any specific brand) add an additional 512 MB of RAM. I would also be needing a network card, and sound card as both were integrated into my motherboard on the old computer. If possible, I'd like to pick up a setup that has the ability to adjust fan speeds so it is a bit quieter than my old computer was.

I've got about 1000 bucks to spend on it, but would prefer to spend less rather than more, as that is my truck savings account, lol

Anyone have any suggestions as far as motherboards, processors, and nice looking cases go?

Thanks!

Russ

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [mision08](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 08:44:36 GMT

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You almost have a complete system. What you don't have is RAM. I doubt you can afford a CPU with an advertised clock-speed of 2.8 GHz. Meaning you will need to overclock the system, and value RAM or non matching sticks will not work.

\$1000 - 9% sales tax and lunch = \$900 to buy a gig of RAM, motherboard, CPU, HSF, and thermal paste. I think you can build a nice PC for that.

I take that back, Intel cores have high clock speeds for cheap. Just make sure it's 64 bit compatible. AMD cores are really cheap too, but they don't have the same high clocks. Don't let that fool you, AMD cores do more <-!- dyslexia > less work and thus need less time to do it. I think AMD uses 12 instructions to complete a process where Intel uses either 20 or 31 depending on

the core architecture.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Scythar](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 09:32:35 GMT

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Well you have to choose whether you want Intel or AMD. AMD is gonna make a very nice price drop before christmas, so you might want to wait until then. Intel Core Duo is pretty much the best bang for the buck right now but it might be a bit extreme for you. And when it comes to gaming, it's a tough choice...your current graphics card is somewhat old, you should get a 256Mb one with that budget. Another 512Mb of RAM would be nice too, although if your current one is old and slow, it'll force the new one to the same speeds, so you should think about replacing the memory completely.

I suppose it falls down to how long "in the future" you want your games to run...next generation hardware is pushed out every half a year, and during each cycle, you'll have less new games that play on a certain setup.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Renx](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 18:19:47 GMT

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AMD is dropping prices tomorrow by up to 55% on some processors. After that there is no more planned price cuts except for mobile processors in october.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Aprime](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 18:21:56 GMT

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Stop spending your money on pickups, Albertaman.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [PackHunter](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 19:30:27 GMT

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If you want to use your old memory you are pretty much stuck to an older type amd processor. And since you don't want to spend that much you could get an amd 64 3700+ (or something around that) for a fair price, with the amd price drops. Although it is an older proc it will run all current games just fine since they don't use multi core processors anyway, although that should change soon.

As for motherboard just be sure you get one with an nForce chipset which are the fastest. Allmost

all mobo's come with integrated network and sound chips too.

Including 512 Megs of extra ram that setup will set you back around 350 bucks or something leaving you more then a enough money for a top of the line graphics card. A Nvidia Geforce 7900 GT for example is a good card that costs under 300 bucks.

That setup should play any of the current games in high settings just fine.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Apache](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 20:30:56 GMT

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Comrade wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 14:21 Stop spending your money on pickups, Albertaman.

I've got enough money into the 1 ton ( ) to build several powerhouse computers decked out with the best and most expensive components out there, lol

However, the roar of my big block is far more satisfying than having a computer that'll be outdated in two weeks anyways!

Doing some reading, and in a flyer there is a Horizon 4000D/2006 desktop with a 3.66 GHz Intel dual core processor on a genuine Intel motherboard of some sort, 2 GB of Kingston RAM, 500 GB hard disk, 19" LCD TFT SXGA monitor, DVD-RW, CD-ROM, with aftermarket audio and video equipment. All boxed together with XP Professional, MS-Office + powerpoint, and a printer. They claim that everything is quality brand name components -- All for just over 900 bucks!

I'm almost tempted to go ahead and pick up a rig like that. It has a stylish full size case that a guy can easily upgrade in the future, and that second LCD monitor would work real nice with my current one to run duals!

Does anyone here have any experience with Horizon computers from MDG?

I know I said I'd like to build my own, but I am not entirely sure I could build one with those kind of specs for that kind of price... Probally sell the software, printer etc on ebay to recoup some costs, wipe her clean, and start from scratch with a clean XP install.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Renx](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 21:03:10 GMT

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I'm sure they're no better than Dell, HP, Gateway, or any of those companies.

Stop just looking at the MHz, they're not what's important. A 2.2Ghz Athlon64 can keep up with that 3.66Ghz P4 easily.

"Brand quality" doesn't mean anything if you don't know what brand the components are. Companies like MDG skip out on quality for all of the major parts that no one ever cares or thinks about. The PSU in that thing for example would be generic garbage, because when people buy computers they don't ask "Hey what kind of PSU is in this?" I don't want anything powering all of my expensive parts that hasn't stood the test of time through 1000s of other PC enthusiasts and builders.

When people like you look for computer they look for a few key things: The amount of Mhz, the amount of RAM, and the amount of HD space. MDG is pitching huge numbers at you for all 3 of those categories. Under no circumstances does that mean those are quality components.

"Aftermarker video" doesn't leave much to be desired either. Probably no more than a radeon 9250, or Geforce 6100. (junk)

Here's a computer for \$900 with actual quality components. Just throw a case in there for another \$50. Not saying you should go with this, just an example to try and get my point across.

### File Attachments

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1) [apachecart.jpg](#), downloaded 157 times

Qty.	Product Description
1	<b>LITE-ON 16X DVD±R DVD Burner Black IDE Model SHW160P6S05 - OEM</b> Model #: SHW160P6S05 Item #: N82E16827106014
<a href="#">Update</a>	Remove  Save  Move To Wish List
<b>Internal Hard Drives</b>	
Qty.	Product Description
1	<b>Western Digital Caviar SE16 WD5000KS 500GB 7200 RPM SATA 3.0Gb/s Hard Drive - OEM</b> Model #: WD5000KS Item #: N82E16822136014
<a href="#">Update</a>	Select an Option <input type="text" value="Extended Warranty Plan"/> Remove  Save  Move To Wish List
<b>AMD-compatible Motherboards</b>	
Qty.	Product Description
1	<b>ASUS M2N-E Socket AM2 NVIDIA nForce 570 Ultra MCP ATX AMD Motherboard - Retail</b> Model #: M2N-E Item #: N82E16813131022
<a href="#">Update</a>	Select an Option <input type="text" value="Extended Warranty Plan"/> Remove  Save  Move To Wish List
<b>Video Cards</b>	
Qty.	Product Description
1	<b>eVGA 256-P2-N554-AX Geforce 7600GT 256MB GDDR3 PCI Express x16 Video Card - Retail</b> Model #: 256-P2-N554-AX Item #: N82E16814130017
<a href="#">Update</a>	<b>\$30.00 Mail-in Rebate</b> Select an Option <input type="text" value="Extended Warranty Plan"/> Remove  Save  Move To Wish List
<b>Power Supplies</b>	
Qty.	Product Description
1	<b>ENERMAX Whisper II EG565P-VE FMA(24P) ATX 12V 535W Power Supply - Retail</b> Model #: EG565P-VE FMA(24P) Item #: N82E16817103512
<a href="#">Update</a>	Select an Option <input type="text" value="Extended Warranty Plan"/> Remove  Save  Move To Wish List
<b>Memory - System</b>	
Qty.	Product Description
1	<b>OCZ Gold 2GB (2 x 1GB) 240-Pin DDR2 SDRAM DDR2 800 (PC2 6400) Unbuffered Dual Channel Kit System Memory Model OCZ28002048ELDCGE-K</b> Model #: OCZ28002048ELDCGE-K Item #: N82E16820227030
<a href="#">Update</a>	<b>\$40.00 Mail-in Rebate</b> Select an Option <input type="text" value="Extended Warranty Plan"/> Remove  Save  Move To Wish List
<b>Processors</b>	
Qty.	Product Description
1	<b>AMD Athlon 64 3500+ Orleans 2000MHz HT Socket AM2 Processor Model ADA3500CNBOX - Retail</b> Model #: ADA3500CNBOX Item #: N82E16819103633 <i>** This item is warranted through the product <b>manufacturer</b> only. </i>
<a href="#">Update</a>	Select an Option <input type="text" value="Extended Warranty Plan"/> Remove  Save  Move To Wish List

Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [PackHunter](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 21:04:16 GMT

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Hell yeah, nothing beats the roar of a big block I've got a 7.4 liters in my speedboat.

Allthough if you mean this:

Quote:

- \* Intel® Pentium 4 Processor 3.6GHz with HT Technology - Free Upgrade to New Intel® Dual Core Processor \$200 Value!

- \* Genuine Microsoft® Windows® XP Home - Free Upgrade to XP-PRO MCE

- \* Genuine Intel® Motherboard

- \* 512MB Kingston® Memory - Free Upgrade to 2GB!

- \* 250GB Hard Drive - Free Upgrade to 500GB!

- \* High Speed DVD Burner - Make your own movies

- \* 19" LCD Monitor - Free Upgrade to New Generation TFT with SXGA Resolution

- \* Free Canon Multifunction Printer - Copier - Scanner

- \* 3D Audio PRO Sound and 3D Video

- \* Genuine Microsoft Internet Keyboard & Optical Mouse

- \* Corel® WordPerfect® Office X3 (With built-in PDF creation, stunning multimedia slideshows, and easy full-featured email)

- \* Microsoft® Software Bundle (Word, Money, Encarta)

- \* Microsoft® Games Bundle (Age of Empire III, Zoo Tycoon, Flight Simulator)

It's not a dual core but a old P4 that's not very good for gaming. And it doesn't say what kind of video card, which is the most important part of your gaming rig. So it's probably not a good video card or even worse: integrated \*brrrrr\*

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [PackHunter](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 21:12:17 GMT

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Renx wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 17:03Here's a computer for \$900 with actual quality components. Just throw a case in there for another \$50. Not saying you should go with this, just an exmple to try and get my point across.

AM2 is total bull, they are allmost nothing faster then regular amd 64's with DDR and he would need to throw away the 512 MB mem he already has and buy DDR2. And a 7600GT graphics card, allthough it used to be one of the best value for money cards, is pretty old.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Spice](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 21:34:06 GMT

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I'll give you a really nice setup as soon as those AMD CPU prices drop.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [z310](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 21:51:43 GMT

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Apache wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 02:57

Anyone have any suggestions as far as... nice looking cases go?

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Renx](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 22:32:54 GMT

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PackHunter wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 18:12Renx wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 17:03Here's a computer for \$900 with actual quality components. Just throw a case in there for another \$50. Not saying you should go with this, just an exmple to try and get my point across.

AM2 is total bull, they are allmost nothing faster then regular amd 64's with DDR and he would need to throw away the 512 MB mem he already has and buy DDR2. And a 7600GT graphics card, allthough it used to be one of the best value for money cards, is pretty old.

So you'd rather him buy s939, which is the same price as AM2 hardware, just because you think AM2 is "total bull?" Between new technology and old technology, which is the same price and speed, I'd still take the new tech. As should anyway, since it's just common sense...

It's better not to mix and match ram anyway. If he got a 2GB dual channel kit, he wouldn't be able to use the 512mb anyway regardless of whether it was DDR or DDR2.

A 7600GT is not old. It's a current, mainstream card. It runs cool and will play most games on high settings at 1024\*768 at least. If he wants to pay the extra \$100 or so and go for the 7900 that's fine, I said I wasn't telling him what he should get with that list.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [mision08](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 22:55:02 GMT

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I would run up to Wal-Mart, get a cheap motherboard and fix your current system. Your first Build should not be on a deadline, do or die scenario. If it was the 100th build, I still want a working PC

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and KVM to research hardware or play games while my new rig is busy doing a burn in, frying RAM, corrupting Windows, or shooting 1.7v to the CPU.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [z310](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 23:24:28 GMT

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mision08 wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 18:55I would run up to Wal-Mart, get a cheap motherboard and fix your current system.

Wal-Mart sells computer parts? o\_o

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [csskiller](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 05:05:34 GMT

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Mine sells 64MB ATI Video cards...

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [PackHunter](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 05:18:10 GMT

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Renx wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 18:32

So you'd rather him buy s939, which is the same price as AM2 hardware, just because you think AM2 is "total bull?" Between new technology and old technology, which is the same price and speed, I'd still take the new tech. As should anyway, since it's just common sense...

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Well, I hate to say it but you are right. I mixed up 7600 GT with 6600 GT... And if AM2 is the same price he should go with the AM2 but he would still be spending a little more on mem though. Which is cool because if you got enough money to spend 2 GB is the way to go, for playing battlefield 2 it's even a must.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [mision08](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 06:30:29 GMT

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There is no substitution for good memory, they can really make a difference. It's weird, Dimm's have been the reigning king of the old cliché, best bang for your buck. They have taken one on the chin this month. Maybe for a year or two CPU cores will hold this honor.

I've bought a mouse at Wal-Mart before. Or was it a mouse pad?

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Apache](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 06:38:30 GMT

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Well, I am going to go and take a look at that machine. They welcome questions with regards to what motherboard etc is installed on these machines, so I'm going to ask a few questions, do some searching on the hardware, and depending on what I find, possibly come home with a new computer tomorrow.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [mision08](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 08:39:48 GMT

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There is a peace of mind that you can enjoy with that route. I'm sure you get a one year warranty or better. When the error report in MMC says to contact the vendor, you won't break out in a nervous sweat. The motherboard chip-set, interface bandwidth and a neutered BIOS are a concern but, I thought about making a similar purchase. Then swapping the mobo with money I saved on the other pieces. Me to picky for that.

Funny how hardware prices fall so far so fast, yet a new PC still cost \$1200 or more.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Apache](#) on Mon, 24 Jul 2006 23:47:04 GMT

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Well, let's hope I made the right choice.

I decided to go with this machine, but changed a few things around.

Their 500 gb hard disk was only a 5500 rpm unit, so I had them switch it to a 110 gb disk that runs 7700 rpm instead. I also had the RAM changed from the slower 2 GB card to a single 512 card that is up to spec with the fastest memory. My old PC has the same memory type / speed in it, so I will wind up with 1 GB of quick memory. I also had them change the processor from the single core 3.6 GHz to a dual core 2.6 GHz unit.

The only thing about the system that I am not entirely happy with is the motherboard. It isn't very upgradeable, so I may wind up getting myself another motherboard (the case is a standard large

layout, so most any aftermarket motherboard will fit fine) that has an intergrated network card and sound card along with more abilities to upgrade.

Grand total came to 850 bucks, so if I spend another 200 on a nice motherboard, I should have a really nice computer then

Russ

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Apache](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 00:30:42 GMT

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Well, my brother came home today, and after telling him about the machine, I thought he was gonna beat me silly!

He tells me I got ripped of hardcore, and that I should eat the 100 buck deposit, and build one myself with his help...

I guess, back to the drawingboard with regards to building system using some of my old components.

Only 900 bucks now though

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Renx](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 00:34:35 GMT

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Just hope you don't need to get a new PSU in order to use a different mobo. Also mak sure that case fits standard ATX mobos.

To be honest, that CPU sucks, 512mb of RAM isn't enough, and it doesn't sound like you got much of a video card. I think you made the wrong decision.

Edit: Use the image I posted above as a guideline to what you should be getting. Add a case, and maybe aim a bit lower with some of the parts to stay within budget.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Aprime](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 02:20:43 GMT

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Apache wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 16:30Comrade wrote on Sun, 23 July 2006 14:21Stop spending your money on pickups, Albertaman.

I've got enough money into the 1 ton ( ) to build several powerhouse computers decked out with the best and most expensive components out there, lol

I didn't specify anything, did I?

I personally don't give a fuck about the car as long as it runs well, drives well and looks good.

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [PackHunter](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2006 05:09:37 GMT

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Apache wrote on Mon, 24 July 2006 20:30 Well, my brother came home today, and after telling him about the machine, I thought he was gonna beat me silly!

He tells me I got ripped of hardcore, and that I should eat the 100 buck deposit, and build one myself with his help...

I guess, back to the drawingboard with regards to building system using some of my old components.

Only 900 bucks now though

Well, didn't we just tell you too that machine was a piece of shit? Don't worry though, with the components you already have you can still buy yourself a killer gaming machine for the 900 bucks...

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [Apache](#) on Sun, 30 Jul 2006 04:01:42 GMT

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Well, I wound up keeping the machine, and brought it home today.

While it has a huge case full of bays for upgrades, the motherboard only has 1 spare PCI slot, and the power supply only has enough connections for two CD-ROM drives and a hard disk, lol Oh, and one word with regards to the video... Intergrated.

So, my old computer had a 500 watt power supply, with enough connections on it to power absolutely anything I could tuck into the computer's case, I'd like to install it, and a new motherboard into my computer, then I'll be plenty happy

All I need is a motherboard with the following capabilities:

- Be compatable with my Intel 2.66 (775 socket if I remember correctly) GHz dual core processor with good BUS speeds

- At least 3 PCI slots (my case has room for 5)
- An AGP slot for my video card (Radeon All-In-Wonder 9800)
- Intergrated sound, video and network components
- Fan speed control abilities (to quiet it down, a no-fan cooling system like ASUS offers would be fine with me)
- Spot for CD-ROM drive IDE ribbon, and a spot for the new style mini-plug the hard disk uses
- 4 RAM slots (DDR, or DDR2 doesn't matter to me, just so long as it is DDR. I have 1024 MB of DDR, and would have to buy DDR2)

The power supply is a 20 pin (2 x 10) connector along with a 4 pin (2 x 2) connector for the motherboard. I can post a pic if interested.

I want the intergrated video for my second monitor, so it doesn't need to be anything particularly fancy, and the sound is patched through my sound system, so no worries about it being all fancy either.

So, less the motherboard and power supply in this box, I'm actually pretty happy with what I picked up, and after I get a new motherboard in, with a new powersupply and I can get my old video card + PCI accessories re-installed, it should be good for many years to come

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Subject: Re: Computer died -- Need advice on building new one!

Posted by [mision08](#) on Mon, 31 Jul 2006 15:18:08 GMT

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The new motherboard doesn't have an AGP slot? I bet it does. So you should use that one unless it just chokes all the life out of your video card. As far as PCI slots, everything is migrating towards USB or on-board integration to the point they are nearly unnecessary. I know that one, is one more than I need. Slip that 500w PSU in and let her fly. When you decide to upgrade the video card you can be sure the marketing department at mega computer hardware conglomerate inc. will have a new state of the art interface that will only work with a new memory module. Of course this will need the new chip-set mounted on a new motherboard, that needs 600w that will sport a new type of Molex connector.

The Asus motherboard is not fan less. It has a heat-pipe that cools the chip-set on the north-bridge. The CPU and heat-sink will still have a fan unless it's water cooled. At which point the radiator will have the fan and the CPU will have a water-block.