Subject: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by nikki6ixx on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 19:27:53 GMT

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So here's what I'm thinking...

I want to build up a small Media Center PC for my TV room, because I'm getting sick of missing good documentaries because I'm at work, and I'd also like to be able to stream stuff from a small media storage hard-drive over a wireless network.

Preferably, the OS on it would be a Windows system, but I'm conflicted as to whether it should be Windows Vista, or the XP-based Media Center. Apparently, some people have complained that the Vista version has been hacked up worse than Joan Rivers, but then again, the Vista version is the most up-to-date. User friendliness is a factor too, because the older folks will be toying around with this too.

Space is a concern, and the computer has to fit in a width of 6 inches, so if the case is 5.5 inches, that'd be great. Height, and length are of no real concern, just the width.

The system has to be reasonably quiet; I'm not a stickler for silence, so I'm willing to have some fan sound if necessary.

It also has to be pretty fast, in order to run Vista, and to be able to record at a decent speed, and to wirelessly (sp?) stream anything from mp3's to DivX avi's, or other large formats. Although it won't be used for gaming, it'll need a decent graphics card that will be able to pipe out good picture to a large TV; so S-Video is going to be OK... but if possible, a Component-video output (or similar) would be much better, and bonus points if it can output in HD.

Hard Drive space of about 250 GB or more should be fine, and it doesn't have to be the fastest HD around, but the quieter, the better.

As for the recording card, it'd be great if I could get a dual-tuner set-up, but I'll easily settle for a single tuner.

Now, I also need help selecting a processor, and motherboard, among other things. I'm pretty green at computer's, and I can only do basic work on them, but I'm willing to learn. So, if you have some spare time, and would like to help me out, it would be much appreciated.

Since I'm in Canada, I cannot use NewEgg, but I've been directed towards this website, http://www.tigerdirect.ca/ , so if you find anything that matches, or closely resembles what you think the computer should have in it, you can find it on here.

Thanks for your help, and I'll check up every so often, and answer any questions you may have.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by Ethenal on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 19:28:52 GMT

Didn't you post the same/similar thing on cr0sis' site?

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by nikki6ixx on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 19:44:09 GMT

Ethenal wrote on Sat, 27 October 2007 14:28Didn't you post the same/similar thing on cr0sis' site?

Yes, but I like to make options, and get some different opinions.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by sadukar09 on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 19:45:38 GMT

If you are building your own:

Case:Xion II Black ATX Mid-Tower Case (Includes 450W PSU)
 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=128917
1&Sku=A406-1028

Motherboard + CPU: Intel DG33FBC Motherboard CPU Bundle - Intel Core 2 Duo E6750
 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=329078
4&CatId=1599

Memory: Corsair XMS2 DHX Dual Channel 2048MB PC6400 DDR2 800MHz Memory (2 x
1024MB)
 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=308947
7&Sku=C13-6078

Internal Storage: Seagate Barracuda 7200.10 500GB Hard Drive
 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=320625
9&Sku=TSD-500AS4

Video Card (Includes TV Tuner I think.:XFX GeForce 8600 GT XXX
 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=304855
2&Sku=P450-8650

Total: $ 746.89

Add fans or other stuff. The case MIGHT be a little too big.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by Oblivion165 on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 19:49:23 GMT
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Agreed with everything but the Seagate.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by nikki6ixx on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 20:30:17 GMT
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That looks pretty awesome, but I'm looking for a relatively small case, and one that doesn't have much in the way of lighting, etc.

If it's something like this...

http://www.cnettv.com/i/dl/vdl/media/image/24/32/2/23224_320x240.jpg

or this...

http://www.antec.com/images/160/nsk1300_q.jpg

Preferably in black, I'll be happy.

Thanks for the replies so far, keep 'em coming.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by nikki6ixx on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 21:56:45 GMT
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Sorry about the double post, but what if I were to use a case like this? Would there be any problems?

 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=216361
3&CatId=1507

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by sadukar09 on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 22:04:08 GMT
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Well you get less space to upgrade. And you have to put the case sideways, which isn't good for the CD/DVDs.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by nikki6ixx on Fri, 11 Jan 2008 22:33:01 GMT
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Bit of a major bump, but I finally got the beast built, and running. It not only fits the bill, but is actually way overpowered for what I intended it to do. But I brought it in for cheap, and that's what matters.

Processor
 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=247058
7&CatId=2328

Mainboard
 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=325097
5&CatId=2839

RAM (2 GB)
 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=308987
5&CatId=2368

Graphics Card (only without the big plastic cooling case-thinger)
 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=324419
9&CatId=1826

HD
 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=330614
8&CatId=2458

Case (Blue Lighting)
 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=333181
7&CatId=1859

It also has a TV-Tuner for recording, etc, and is hooked to a Wireless adapter. Took me a while to get it all together, but it runs like a dream on XP Media Center 2005.

It's now hooked up to a Marantz sound system receiver which was almost as expensive, and the HD contains about 200 CD's so far, with plenty more on the way, as well as some vinyl's, and cassettes on the way.

So now I can listen to music or DVD's in 14 rooms... 14 rooms of Van Halen!

So thanks for your guys' help. Maybe when I pick up a plasma or LCD TV, I can play some good games on it too.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by sadukar09 on Fri, 11 Jan 2008 23:20:47 GMT
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You should've spent a couple bucks more for a 6000+, whatever though, not bad machine. (I think you should put the Video Card cooler back on...it's much better)

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by Ethenal on Fri, 11 Jan 2008 23:37:25 GMT
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Why the hell would you remove the cooler? That's not exactly a good idea.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by Ryu on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 00:57:01 GMT
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sadukar09 wrote on Sat, 27 October 2007 20:45

Video Card (Includes TV Tuner I think.:XFX GeForce 8600 GT XXX
  http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=304855
2&Sku=P450-8650

nVidia is for gaming dude, Keep that in mind.

ATi is the choice here,

 http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=322437
0&CatId=1560

This is something I found while looking, Tigerdirect has the worst system for displaying shit, Very unorganized, anyway, You want something that can handle HDTV, I've never hooked up a card to a tv to record stuff so I assume you'll need to buy extra wires and download some software.

But remember, as I shit you not, even if you HATE ATi with a rage, They kick nVidia's ass with video quality for movies.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by Ethenal on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 02:27:09 GMT
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Read that post date Ryu, he's already gotten his system built, he was just coming in and saying thanks for the help.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?

Posted by **nikki6ixx** on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 08:47:00 GMT

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Ethenal wrote on Fri, 11 January 2008 17:37Why the hell would you remove the cooler? That's not exactly a good idea.

sadukar09 wrote on Fri, 11 January 2008 17:20You should've spent a couple bucks more for a 6000+, whatever though, not bad machine. (I think you should put the Video Card cooler back on...it's much better)

My bad... It's a similar card, but it didn't come with that plastic stuff. It did however, come with a fan, and is 512MB. As for not getting a 6000, I figured that'd be way too much power for my needs, and even a 5200+ is still way too much.

Remember, it's being mainly used for recording TV, streaming HD, and non-HD video, and as a jukebox, so raw power wasn't my goal.

Ryu wrote on Fri, 11 January 2008 18:57

nVidia is for gaming dude, Keep that in mind.

ATi is the choice here,

   http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=322437
0&CatId=1560

This is something I found while looking, Tigerdirect has the worst system for displaying shit, Very unorganized, anyway, You want something that can handle HDTV, I've never hooked up a card to a tv to record stuff so I assume you'll need to buy extra wires and download some software.

But remember, as I shit you not, even if you HATE ATi with a rage, They kick nVidia's ass with video quality for movies.

I already built my system, but don't worry, an ATI is powering my TV picture. (Only mine is 512MB, and had a nice rebate) Right now, it mostly does work on a Standard-Def 'tube' TV, but I've hooked it up to an LCD and my jaw detached from my skull because the picture was just beautiful. Plus, I'd have likely gone with an ATI because they are Canadian, and I have an old Radeon 7000 PCI in my old IBM, and the picture is just great.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by **Blazer** on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 11:03:38 GMT

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Why use a PC
http://www.popcornhour.com/

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by sadukar09 on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 12:48:31 GMT
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Still getting a 6000+ might make your PC last a couple weeks more.

Subject: Re: Some Help From the Computer Guru's, Please?
Posted by Creed3020 on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 18:15:45 GMT
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sadukar09 wrote on Sat, 27 October 2007 15:45If you are building your own:

Case:Xion II Black ATX Mid-Tower Case (Includes 450W PSU)
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Motherboard + CPU: Intel DG33FBC Motherboard CPU Bundle - Intel Core 2 Duo E6750
  http://www.tigerdirect.ca/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=329078
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Internal Storage: Seagate Barracuda 7200.10 500GB Hard Drive
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Video Card (Includes TV Tuner I think.:XFX GeForce 8600 GT XXX
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2&Sku=P450-8650

Total: $ 746.89

Add fans or other stuff. The case MIGHT be a little too big.

The request was a for Media Center PC not a "bling bling", bells and whistles gaming rig.

BTW Tigerdirect is a great way to go.

That processor + mobo combination is also not available anymore so go a different route.

To save a little just go with a slightly lower powered Core2Duo. No need to pick the E6750.

For HDD go Western Digital or Seagate. I find Seagate's are costing less lately, agressive pricing

IMHO.