Subject: New PC and GFX card
Posted by trunkskgb on Mon, 15 Mar 2010 01:56:09 GMT
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I'm tinkering on building a new machine. I'm looking at gfx cards. I've always bought ATI except for one time, and they've performed admirably. Obviously I am going with PCI Express 2.0 x16, but what's good?

I'm looking at the Radeon HD 5850 and uh, ...pretty much the whole 5000 series lol.

Any advice?

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by a000clown on Mon, 15 Mar 2010 07:12:07 GMT
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I've been looking at the same card

From what I've researched so far it's very reliable and with prices dropping "soon" if you wanted to do crossfire with two of those, you'd be able to play pretty much any game at max settings + high res for at least a few years. I should also note that a single 5850 can handle any current game at max settings, in-case the crossfire comment caused confusion.

PS: Just noticed you mentioned PCIe 2.0 x16
The Radeon 5000 series is PCIe 2.1 x16

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by Canadacdn on Mon, 15 Mar 2010 20:51:00 GMT
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Crossfire/SLi is a gigantic waste of money.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by nikki6ixx on Mon, 15 Mar 2010 21:21:18 GMT
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We have a couple members here who have 5850's. Glock built himself a machine just a few days with one, and seems happy with it. He, or Homey can probably fill you in.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card

Posted by a000clown on Mon, 15 Mar 2010 21:43:54 GMT
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Canadacdn wrote on Mon, 15 March 2010 15:51Crossfire/SLi is a gigantic waste of money.
I agree, but only because most games currently don't support it which btw, can even cause a negative impact on performance in some cases.
In the future I think it will be more useful, but I'd still prefer to have one card to keep the heat and power usage down.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by Homey on Mon, 15 Mar 2010 23:37:51 GMT
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a000clown wrote on Mon, 15 March 2010 16:43Canadacdn wrote on Mon, 15 March 2010 15:51Crossfire/SLi is a gigantic waste of money.
I agree, but only because most games currently don't support it which btw, can even cause a negative impact on performance in some cases.
In the future I think it will be more useful, but I'd still prefer to have one card to keep the heat and power usage down.
I wouldn't say it's a gigantic waste at all, quite the opposite. Say you have a GTX 260, say you want to upgrade now to a GTX 460/70 when it comes out, why shell out $500 on a new card when you can spend $150 and nearly double your fps. SLI profiles are pretty decent. If you're gaming maxed out on 1080/1200p it's far from a gigantic waste. It totally depends what games you play, whether you need the performance or not. Then there's also cuda apps/folding etc. Tri-sli top cards is a giant waste though

As for the 5850, great card/performance ratio and they're dropping. I have a 5870 and they're also coming down in price. So far they've been quite good cards and minus the supply issue they had, no complaints from me for my first ati card. Depending on your current hardware I'd vouch for the 5850 or the 5770.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by slosha on Tue, 16 Mar 2010 03:21:47 GMT
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I would also recommend the 5850. I just got Bad Company 2 and it plays it at maximum settings and I haven't noticed any low frame rates. It's a beast.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by Omar007 on Tue, 16 Mar 2010 07:57:11 GMT
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Bad Company 2 requires near to nothing in vid card power :V

I use an NVidia GeForce 9800GTX+ and i run everything on max. I wouldnt use that game for reference. The only improvement it would have is DX11 soft shadows and that isnt even that special imo

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Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by Homey on Tue, 16 Mar 2010 19:49:26 GMT
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Heaven Benchmark or Crysis are good comparisons as they stress cards. But I would grab a DX11 card simply for the sake of having it for future games. Games like Dirt 2 make good use of it, so far not much else AFAIK.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by Omar007 on Tue, 16 Mar 2010 22:34:34 GMT
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EDIT: My benchmark idea was the same as above post xD only another name of it (Unigine)

Personally i wouldnt buy a DX11 card just yet. It doesnt has alot of compatable games.
Just wait a while with DX11. Later it will be good to have one ; more DX11 games, cheaper DX11 cards, better DX11 cards

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Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by Homey on Tue, 16 Mar 2010 23:11:22 GMT
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Omar007 wrote on Tue, 16 March 2010 17:34EDIT: My benchmark idea was the same as above post xD only another name of it (Unigine)

Personally i wouldnt buy a DX11 card just yet. It doesnt has alot of compatable games.
Just wait a while with DX11. Later it will be good to have one ; more DX11 games, cheaper DX11 cards, better DX11 cards
I would agree with that if there were a price premium on them. Performance/$ ratio I'd say ATI's 5000 cards are doing pretty well compared to Nvidia's 200 series. If there were a premium, I'd totally agree as I doubt we'll see much DX11 for a while. Too many things still on DX9 lol

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Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by Jaspah on Thu, 18 Mar 2010 20:26:54 GMT
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Canadacdn wrote on Mon, 15 March 2010 16:51Crossfire/SLi is a gigantic waste of money.

Not in higher resolutions. I have two Radeon 4870s in Crossfire on a 1920x1080 monitor, and I notice a huge difference in pretty much all my games with Crossfire enabled.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by trunkskgb on Sat, 20 Mar 2010 22:24:39 GMT
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I won't begin building until the end of the month, or the end of April possibly. Right now I have a ATI X850 XT I bought about 4 1/2 years ago and it still works. Not as well as it used to of course lol. It was a great back then and I want another great card again. A few other people said the 5000 series is good as well.

Another quick question, when choosing a tower, does it really matter? I mean, should I look for one that fits the mobo I'll be buying or is it kind of one-size-fits-all?

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by trunkskgb on Sat, 20 Mar 2010 22:38:38 GMT
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a000clown wrote on Mon, 15 March 2010 02:12

PS: Just noticed you mentioned PCIe 2.0 x16
The Radeon 5000 series is PCIe 2.1 x16

Would I still be able to use that card with the PCIe2.0 mobo I'm pricing?

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by sadukar09 on Wed, 24 Mar 2010 10:24:09 GMT
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You probably would get lower performance than a 2.1 motherboard.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by EvilWhiteDragon on Wed, 24 Mar 2010 12:36:23 GMT
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sadukar09 wrote on Wed, 24 March 2010 11:24You probably would get lower performance than a 2.1 motherboard.

Not noticeable. I think that 2.1 only adds powersaving features.
Anyway, 2.1 and 2.0 are backwards compatible, so you can put in a 2.1 card in a 2.0 motherboard without issues, only with the limitations of 2.0 (which doesn't harm any current card yet). Just like a 2.0 card works in a 1.0 PCI-e slot, but it may be limited on bandwidth.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by trunkskgb on Tue, 06 Apr 2010 21:45:54 GMT
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Ok, cool guys. Thanks for the recommendations.

I also have another question. My current rig tower uses a 500 watt power supply. I've had to replace it once. I have an AMD 2.2 proc, an 80 gig seagate HD, a Radeon X850 XT, 4 gig ram(ddr) and my mobo is an Asus A8V deluxe.

I'm obviously going with a much more powerful build this time, should I stay with the 500 watt towers? Or go higher? Like around 600? 650? Or higher? o.0?

These are the cases I'm looking at...

 http://www.newegg.com/Product/ProductList.aspx?Submit=ENE&N=2010090007+12958 19208+105510033&QksAutoSuggestion=&ShowDeactivatedMark=False&Configu rator=&Subcategory=7&description=&Ntk=&CFG=&SpeTabStoreType= &srchInDesc=

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by nikki6ixx on Tue, 06 Apr 2010 21:58:53 GMT
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Hmm, my experience has been that the power supplies included with cases aren't terribly good, save for Antec's Sonata, which comes with a very good PSU.

You might be better off buying a separate PSU from the likes of Corsair, Antec, SeaSonic and Thermaltake. There's other brands too that are great. You can get a very nice Corsair 650 for $75 after a rebate, but I'm sure if you shop around you'll find some great deals, especially if you buy a combo deal with a PSU, and case.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by a000clown on Wed, 07 Apr 2010 00:20:07 GMT
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I'm inexperienced in this but noticed cyberpowerpc.com recommends at least 700W for the Radeon HD 5850 1GB, according to their online configurator.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by Caveman on Wed, 07 Apr 2010 07:44:56 GMT
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a000clown wrote on Wed, 07 April 2010 01:20I'm inexperienced in this but noticed cyberpowerpc.com recommends at least 700W for the Radeon HD 5850 1GB, according to their online configurator.

Yeah I wouldn't listen to that. It would easily work on a 500w PSU.

Subject: Re: New PC and GFX card
Posted by cmatt42 on Thu, 08 Apr 2010 06:56:55 GMT
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You can get a rough idea of what you need for wattage with a power supply calculator; there are a few around the web.

Just put in the parts you're going to be putting in it, plus some extra ones you think you may add later, just for good measure.