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Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 8:50 PM
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Subject: Computer of the Week #28

COMPUTER TIP OF THE WEEK SENT TO YOU BY:



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#28

What does RAM do and how much do I need?

Answer:

A computer's RAM is strictly meant to provide short term-memory space that can be accessed as quickly as possible. Since a computer hard drive contains so much data, accessing the data from the RAM is much faster. Therefore, RAM acts as an intermediary between the hard drive and the processor. The hard drive sends data to the RAM necessary for running an application, and the processor accesses the data saved to the RAM to run the application. Because RAM is temporary, once an application that has been saved to RAM is stopped, it is freed up to be used for something else. This is, in part, why closing a few applications while multitasking will speed up other applications that remain open.

How much RAM you need is determined by how many applications you like to use at once, what type of applications you use, what hardware you have and what Operating System you have. The minimum requirements for RAM is consistently increasing as graphics, processes and computers get better. At this time, anywhere from 2 to 4 GB of RAM is considered standard.

Other factors like data-transfer frequency and Operating System bits also contribute to the speed increase of RAM.

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