Desktop Computers 101

What I have tried to do is cut through the *techno-talk* and explain the cutting edge information in its simplest form, and provide you with a budget driven computer.

A. Processor

The main factor in performance of your computer as well as the cost. The processor provides your computer with the necessary speed in order to process task. If you are thinking of writing a document or transmitting email, then a slower processor will serve you just fine. Now, on the other hand, if you are planning on running multimedia or gaming, look for a fast gigahertz (GHz) processor.

B. Hard Drive

This is used for storage of all computer data. In this case, more is absolutely better so purchase as much disk space as your wallet can handle, especially if this if going to be a family-used computer.

C. RAM stands for Random Access Memory (see Glossary for a more detailed definition). When addressing memory on your computer, the more you have, the faster you can access files. At the time of this writing, 512MB is the standard, but 1GB is an excellent option and highly recommended.

D. Optical Drive

This is better known as CD-ROM (or DVD) drive. These drives store and/or retrieve information from disk via laser technology. This item also allows you to share your personal creations such as photos, music, etc.

E. Sound

Having a good sound system on your computer nowadays will provide your lots versatility for listening to music, viewing movies, video games, chat sessions, etc.

F. Graphic Card

If processors and memory are everything, then a good graphic card is a close third. Graphic cards deliver realistic images for your viewing pleasure.