

Lab 2.3.5: Identifying Computer Bus Types & Expansion Slots

Estimated time: 20 Minutes

Objective

Upon completion of this lab, the student will be able to identify safety issues, specifications, and components relating to expansion slots. The student will also be able to list the advantages and disadvantages of each expansion slot.

Equipment

The following equipment is required for this exercise:

- Motherboard & motherboard manuals
- Expansion cards (not required, but additive)
- Internet access for research

Scenario

Bob has purchased a used computer and is trying to determine what type of video card and other expansion cards can be installed. Help Bob figure out what is currently installed so that he can make an educated decision when he is ready to buy new expansion cards.

Procedures

An expansion slot is a long, thin, socket connection, located on a motherboard or riser board, which allows various cards to be added to a computer. These cards may include devices such as modems, sound cards, and network interface cards (NICs). Expansion slots allow the life of a computer to be extended, since new technology can be added as it becomes available.

Verify that the power cord is disconnected and that the anti-static wrist strap is in place. Remove the computer's system case.

Step 1

Locate the expansion slots on the motherboard (or riser card) and list them:

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	6.

Step 2

Using your resources, identify any expansion cards that are installed:

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	6.

Troubleshooting

Occasionally when a PC is shipped from one location to another, an expansion card may become unseated. Verify that all expansion cards are properly seated as well as all connectors properly plugged in before turning the unit on.

Reflection

What type of expansion cards would be installed in a PCI slot?

What is the speed difference between PCI and ISA expansion slots?
