

Lab 2.3.7: Video Card Identification

Estimated time: 35 Minutes

Objective

The major features and specifications of different video cards will be discussed in this lab. You will be able to identify the video card by any markings on the card. These may include a manufacturer's name and/or part number. Some cards may be identified only by the physical layout of the card.

Equipment

The following equipment is required for this exercise:

- ESD wrist strap
- Standard tool kit
- Lab workstation with video card installed
- Internet access
- Manufacturer manuals

Scenario

You are an avid gamer and wish to compare the features of all the video cards at your disposal. Since you need the latest and greatest video card for the latest and greatest games, you will want to pay special attention to the manufacturer and performance specifications of each video card.

Procedures

A video adapter, or card, is an expansion card that allows the computer to display images on a monitor. It also determines the monitor's depth and resolution. The need for the video card is determined by the intended usage of the system. For example, a system used for gaming will need a much "higher end" card than one used for word processing.

Step 1

After removing the system case, remove the video card from its expansion slot. When working with video cards, like any other component on the inside of a computer, take special care to be grounded and make sure to use an anti-static wrist-strap. If the video card is damaged, the computer will be useless until a new video card is installed.

Research and supply the following information:

Manufacturer:	
Model number:	
URL site:	
Key features:	
System requirements:	
Cost:	

Terms

Research the following terms using the following Internet resources and other Internet resources:

- <http://www.techweb.com/encyclopedia>
- <http://www.webopedia.com/>

AGP port:

EDO RAM:

Pixel:

Refresh rate:

Resolution:

Troubleshooting

When working with video cards, like any other component on the inside of a computer, take special care to be grounded and make sure to use an anti-static wrist-strap. If the only video card is damaged, the computer will be useless until a new video card is installed.

Reflection

Did any of the video cards that were worked with have a heat sink or a fan on the Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)?

Are video cards with a heat sink or fan on the GPU available?

Why would having a separate processor on a video card help performance?
