

Glossary

Baby Form-Factor: A small computer system board.

Battery Backup: Maintains the configuration settings (date, time, etc.) stored in the CMOS when the main power to the computer is turned off.

BIOS: Basic Input Output System. Maintains and controls the entire functions of the computer.

Cache: Fast memory used to enhance the efficiency and speed of the computer.

CGA: Color Graphic Adaptor. Associated with the monitor.

CPU: Central Processing Unit. Essentially, the “brains” of the computer.

DIP Switches: Switches used to configure the system board according to the needs of the user.

Disk Controller: A computer card located in the system that controls the hard and/or floppy disk drives.

Disk Drive: A hard or floppy disk drive.

DRAM: Dynamic Random Access Memory.

EGA: Enhanced Graphic Adaptor.

EISA: Extended Industry Standard Architecture.

ISA: Industry Standard Architecture.

Jumpers: A device on the system board used to configure certain information on the board.

Math Coprocessor: An optional processor chip used to enhance the floating point operations of the computer.

Micro Channel: A proprietary bus architecture.

Monitor: The visual component of the computer.

Monochrome: Used to describe a single colored monitor.

POST: Power On Self Test. The computer's self-diagnostic test, which is executed whenever the system is booted.

Power Supply: A term used to describe electric energy, in or out, that powers the computer.

RMA: Returned Merchandise Authorization. An authorization provided by the department where warranty issue items are returned.

Setup: Steps used to configure the system board.

SIMM: Single In-line Memory Module. SIMMs are banks of memory used to increase the performance of the computer.

SRAM: Static Random Access Memory.

VESA: Video Electronics Standards Association.

VGA: Video Graphics Array. Associated with the monitor.