Hardware Components of a Multimedia System





Computer System Components

- Processor data processing and transfer
- Memory RAM (128 or 256 MB) and hard-drive
- Monitor resolution (# of pixels)
- Video card color quality (# of colors)
 - 8 bits = 256 colors
 - 16 bits = 65,536 colors
 - 24 bits = 16.7 million





Computer System Components

Audio card – sound quality

- 16 bit standard
- Sampling changing analog signal to digital signal





Computer System Components

CD-ROM drive

- 650 MB
- Reads data and transfers it to computer
- Transfer rate: 1x = 150 kbps to 12x = 1800 kbps
- Seek time: 200 milliseconds (+/-)

🔆 Hard drive

- 20+ gigabytes
- Transfer rate: 100 MB/s
- Seek time: 8.9 ms



Development Versus Playback

😼 Development systems

- Best product quality using fastest and most
 powerful computer
- Will also lower production cost by reducing production time

😼 Playback systems

 Computers in use. Mostly not at the high end of available technology

Typical Multimedia Development System





- Processor min. Pentium 3
 Memory 256 MB RAM and up
 Video capture card capture, digitize & store video
 Monitor
 - Min 20" for detailed editing
 - 2 monitors: to work and display as title is created

Development System

Peripherals

- Scanner – flatbed, handheld, or negatives

– External storage:

- Syquest (135MB)
- lomega zip (100 or 250 MB)
- Jaz drive (250 MB)
 - External hard drive (60+ GB)







🕹 Peripherals

- CD-RW
- Digital still camera
- Microphone
 - Other components:
 - Digital video camera
 - DVD drive
 - USB or fire-wire connections





Multimedia PC History

MPC - specifications for hardware and software
MPC logo:

- Software ran on MPC machines
- Developing software was less risky:
 - Customer reassured what software would work for them
 - Hardware was built to MPC specifications
 - Developer knew MPC software would run on any MPC machine

MPC Comparison

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
2 Mb of RAM	4 Mb of RAM	8 Mb of RAM
386 / 16 Mhz	486 / 25 Mhz	Pentium / 75 Mhz
30 MB hard drive	60 MB hard drive	540 MB hard drive
1 X CD-ROM	2 X CD-ROM	4 X CD-ROM
8 bit digital sound	16 bit digital sound	8 bit CD-quality sound
16 color video display	65,536 color video display	65,536 color video display

