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CPU Performance - How to choose the best processor

When buying a new computer, it can be confusing to figure out what is the best processor. Do you need to stick with Intel? If so, should you purchase a Core i3, i5 or i7? Or should you pick a computer with a different brand processor like AMD? Stimulus Technologies has put together a guide to easily understand processors and CPU performance.

Intel vs AMD: which brand is best?

The short answer is Intel. If you are not on a tight budget, Intel processors offer quicker and more powerful performance overall. Intel processors are built in some of the fastest computers and tablets in the market MSI GT72 or Dominator Pro are good examples.

How to choose between Intel's Core processors?

First, it is important to explain the architecture. The differences on performance come from the features enabled or disabled, how many cores they have and the clock speed. The table below shows you a lineup of the most popular desktop processors.

Model	Core i3	Core i5	Core i7
Number of cores	2	4	4
Hyper-threading	Yes	No	Yes
Turbo boost	No	Yes	Yes

Cores

One core is an individual processor, therefore dual core has two internal processors and quad core has four. More cores are useful for multi-threaded applications, such as video editing. These applications are designed to use multiple cores to improve performance. If you use applications designed to use just one core, the other cores in your processor go idle.

Hyper-Threading

Hyper-Threading is the technology Intel uses to create two logical cores in each physical core; this means that your operating system thinks it has more cores than it really does. When talking about performance, hyper-threading is not as fast as having two physical cores; however it allows...

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Meet Our Technicians

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Richard Tracy attended the University of Utah in the mid 1980's and recently completed an associate's degree in computers and Information Technology at the College of Southern Nevada. Richard moved to Las Vegas in 2000 from Denver...

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