Subject: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Sun, 27 Sep 2009 05:55:05 GMT
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I've been looking through P55 boards for an upcoming build which will hopefully come soon, and I want to know if anyone has had experience with the brand 'ECS' ?

Here's their P55 offering:
http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16813135244&Tpk=ecs%20p5 5h-a

I'm not aiming for huge overclocks, and would likely be using an I5-750.

In enthusiast circles, the brand isn't woo well regarded but I tend to find people on hardware websites to be snooty douchebags, so I'm coming here to see if anyone has some input.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Sun, 27 Sep 2009 10:30:17 GMT
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Never personally used them...or even heard of them for that matter. I'd stick to a good brand, gigabyte has some cheaper P55 boards and I'd be going with them or EVGA. There's a reason these companies have a good rep, good quality and CS. I've done a few RMA's with EVGA, very easy. Their P55 boards are overpriced though.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by EvilWhiteDragon on Mon, 28 Sep 2009 06:45:58 GMT
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No personal exp with ECS, but it is generally known to be more of a budget motherboard builder, so personally I would go for something like Gigabyte.

I would certainly not go with Asus no matter what.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by CarrierII on Mon, 28 Sep 2009 08:25:56 GMT
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EvilWhiteDragon wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 07:45No personal exp with ECS, but it is generally known to be more of a budget motherboard builder, so personally I would go for something like Gigabyte.

I would certainly not go with Asus no matter what.

Why not ASUS? I've done three builds w/ ASUS boards, no complaints and nice prices.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by EvilWhiteDragon on Mon, 28 Sep 2009 09:03:51 GMT
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CarrierII wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 10:25EvilWhiteDragon wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 07:45No personal exp with ECS, but it is generally known to be more of a budget motherboard builder, so personally I would go for something like Gigabyte.

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I have had to RMA it 1, 2, 3, 4, no 5 times. And I only have had 3 Asus boards.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by CarrierII on Mon, 28 Sep 2009 09:05:25 GMT
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I had to RMA one once, but I wasn't too bothered, due to good CS, but it was via the retailer. Hmm...

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by EvilWhiteDragon on Mon, 28 Sep 2009 13:36:35 GMT
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CarrierII wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 11:05I had to RMA one once, but I wasn't too bothered, due to good CS, but it was via the retailer. Hmm...
A couple of times the RMA service by retailer was decent (directly switched MB's) but at other times I had to wait 8 WEEKS before I got a working motherboard again. AKA no fun.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Mon, 28 Sep 2009 21:20:22 GMT
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EVGA = 3 weeks, Gigabyte is something similar. That's for me, with 1 week shipping each way.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question

Posted by _SSnipe_ on Mon, 28 Sep 2009 23:46:13 GMT
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Homey wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 14:20EvilWhiteDragon wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 09:36CarrierII wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 11:05I had to RMA one once, but I wasn't too bothered, due to good CS, but it was via the retailer. Hmm...
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EVGA = 3 weeks, Gigabyte is something similar. That's for me, with 1 week shipping each way.
I heard EVGA is pretty good and very easy over clockable

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Tue, 29 Sep 2009 00:00:29 GMT
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EVGA would be OK, but their P55 LE is 169 bucks before a rebate, whereas the ECS is $119 before a rebate which comes out to be 99 bucks. The EVGA doesn't have much over the cheaper ECS, and if I were spending 170 bucks on a board, I'd be looking at an MSI P55 GD-65.

170 dollars is starting to head into 1366 board territory, and then I'd just be tempted to then spend another 100 bucks on a 920 lol.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by _SSnipe_ on Tue, 29 Sep 2009 00:08:44 GMT
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nikki6ixx wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 17:00EVGA would be OK, but their P55 LE is 169 bucks before a rebate, whereas the ECS is $119 before a rebate which comes out to be 99 bucks. The EVGA doesn't have much over the cheaper ECS, and if I were spending 170 bucks on a board, I'd be looking at an MSI P55 GD-65.

170 dollars is starting to head into 1366 board territory, and then I'd just be tempted to then spend another 100 bucks on a 920 lol.
I thought i5 are faster then i7? but yet there cheaper :S

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Tue, 29 Sep 2009 00:20:35 GMT
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i7 and i5 are similar, but i7 has a few differences other than speed. X58 also has more lanes than P55, better for multiple GPU solutions overall.

Have you looked at the gigabyte P55 boards? They're a little cheaper I believe and generally are of the same quality as EVGA and have decent CS.

P.S. You use NCIX and pricematch right? Every Canadian should

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Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Tue, 29 Sep 2009 00:29:21 GMT
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Homey wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 19:20i7 and i5 are similar, but i7 has a few differences other than speed. X58 also has more lanes than P55, better for multiple GPU solutions overall.

Have you looked at the gigabyte P55 boards? They're a little cheaper I believe and generally are of the same quality as EVGA and have decent CS.

P.S. You use NCIX and pricematch right? Every Canadian should

My problem is the PCI-e lanes, because on one hand, I don't think I'd need to SLI/Crossfire, but on the other, I keep my stuff for a long time, and if the 8x lane becomes a bottleneck in the future, I'd be kicking myself. Thing is, my monitor is limited to 1680x1050 so I really doubt I'll be using CFX/SLI anytime soon.

I've heard good things about Gigabyte and I've checked out their offerings, but I'm waiting to see if I can get my hands on some more reviews.

As for price matching, I'll likely be buying from the States because I have an American dollar account, so nothing from NCIX. I'm happy Hardware Canucks mentions pricematching constantly because it has saved me some money in the past.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Tue, 29 Sep 2009 04:49:21 GMT
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Ah alright, I find ordering from Canada still cheaper most of the time, especially if any border fees come into play.

What's your HWC user name?

Just noticed you're in BC. Ncix charges PST/GST for BC residents. We only pay 5% GST here, for the next year or so til the HST comes into effect.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by danpaul88 on Tue, 29 Sep 2009 10:54:58 GMT
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EvilWhiteDragon wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 10:03CarrierII wrote on Mon, 28 September

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2009 10:25EvilWhiteDragon wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 07:45No personal exp with ECS, but it is generally known to be more of a budget motherboard builder, so personally I would go for something like Gigabyte.

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Why not ASUS? I've done three builds w/ ASUS boards, no complaints and nice prices.

I have had to RMA it 1, 2, 3, 4, no 5 times. And I only have had 3 Asus boards.

Wow, thats really bad. I have bought about 10 ASUS boards over the last few years and never had a problem with any of them. I still have the first one I ever bought about 8yrs ago running somewhere, that's how reliable they have been for me. I never even consider other brands now as I know when I buy an ASUS board I am getting good value for money and, in my experience, excellent reliability.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Tue, 29 Sep 2009 18:58:54 GMT
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Was it an nvidia chipset? They tend to suck the big one. I've used a 780i, 790i and a 45 chipset. The 780i has died twice, 790i and 45 have been fine. Moving to X58 this week, much more stable than any nvidia chipset could dream of.

Asus had a lot of bad boards, like evga because of nvidia chipsets. Wasn't really their fault these boards were such junk. If you had that many problems with an intel chip, that's odd.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by EvilWhiteDragon on Tue, 29 Sep 2009 19:27:16 GMT
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danpaul88 wrote on Tue, 29 September 2009 12:54EvilWhiteDragon wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 10:03CarrierII wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 10:25EvilWhiteDragon wrote on Mon, 28 September 2009 07:45No personal exp with ECS, but it is generally known to be more of a budget motherboard builder, so personally I would go for something like Gigabyte.

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Fair enough, my oldest Asus board (A7N266-c, Athlon XP palimino age) is still running with a Athlon XP-M 2400+ at 2,3 Ghz (17*133). So yeah, that one performs fine, but the others where BAD.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by danpaul88 on Tue, 29 Sep 2009 21:25:17 GMT
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Homey wrote on Tue, 29 September 2009 19:58Was it an nvidia chipset? They tend to suck the big one. I've used a 780i, 790i and a 45 chipset. The 780i has died twice, 790i and 45 have been fine. Moving to X58 this week, much more stable than any nvidia chipset could dream of.

Asus had a lot of bad boards, like evga because of nvidia chipsets. Wasn't really their fault these boards were such junk. If you had that many problems with an intel chip, that's odd.

Actually... I think most of my boards are nvidia chipsets, all my recent ones certainly are. My current board has the 750a chipset and my last one had the 570 chipset... strange how different peoples experience with the same product can be. Perhaps it's because I never overclock any of my components because I prefer them to actually last a long time.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Wed, 30 Sep 2009 00:17:41 GMT
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Homey wrote on Tue, 29 September 2009 00:49Ah alright, I find ordering from Canada still cheaper most of the time, especially if any border fees come into play.

What's your HWC user name?

Just noticed you're in BC. Ncix charges PST/GST for BC residents. We only pay 5% GST here, for the next year or so til the HST comes into effect.

My HWC name is 'DokkRokken' , and I haven't been on long at all; just lurked for a couple years.

As for shipping, I have a bud in Seattle who holds US shipments for me so whenever I head south for a day or two, I just pick it up at his place. It also means I get to avoid some of the taxes, and I just don't declare it at the border.

Edit: Saw this on ebay.ca, and it's through NCIX outlet.

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http://cgi.ebay.ca/ASUS-Rampage-II-Gene-mATX-DDR3-X58-CrossFire-SLI-37051D_W0QQitemZ310171644566QQcmdZViewItemQQptZMotherboards?hash=item4837abb296&_trksid=p3286.c0.m14#ht_9222wt_958

Even though it's 'open box' I'm going to try grabbing it, although I have this bad feeling other people are watching it too. Shame I can't just go to their place and get it because it'd be just a 20 minute drive.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Wed, 30 Sep 2009 04:56:43 GMT
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Ah, must be nice to have someone that close. Port Huron is about 50 minutes from here and I don't know anyone there. Seems like a good deal, but if I had known you were interested in mATX boards there are still a few more nice ones out there as well. In fact, the X58 EVGA Micro looks really good.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 01:44:37 GMT
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So I was poking around again, and came up with this 'i7' cart with a few rebates:

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Toggle Spoiler

It comes out to $1,151.95 before shipping and rebates. The rebates are 90 bucks in total, but two of them will likely require me to use my bud's address.

I could finaggle with it, and get the mATX EVGA board, but I think the x58 LE variant should be worth the couple extra bucks. The 4770 is there to tide me over until ATI's DX11 card prices fall, and when nVidia shows it's hand with the GT300 cards.

The SSD is in there, because they're mighty awesome, and I wanted to get that specific Thermaltake case in the first place, so win win, eh?

I haven't added any third party heatsink because if I decide to OC, it won't be for quite a while.

Any thoughts? This is still tepid, but if I get anything, it'll have to be at the month's end. I'm gaming at 1680x1050, and I really won't be working the high-end platform, but I like a little future-proofing.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question

Posted by Homey on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 05:23:08 GMT
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Looks good man. Personally I'd save a bit of money and go with a Vertex, I got one for $170 AR from newegg.ca 2 weeks ago, 60GB. Is that the new generation intel or old? If it's the new one, it's an ok price. I'm doing the same deal right now with my card, sitting on a gts 250 til nvidia shows their cards. Then I'll go with ati or nvidia, whomever seems best. Pick up a Hyper 212+ heatsink, I got mine for $25 at ncix, does a mighty job for the price. Frankly it'd be worth putting in now.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 05:44:32 GMT
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I originally was going to pull for a 60GB Vertex, but with the Intel/Thermaltake combo, it's 30 bucks less, than if I bought the Thermtaltake case and OCZ Vertex. I ain't gonna complain about that!

And I went ahead and added a 212, plus an extra fan with some Arctic Silver 5. I doubt I'll be overclocking anytime soon, but since you mentioned that it's decent for i7, I might as well grab it. All in all, the subtotal before shipping is $1,197.

Like I said, this is still a bit tepid, but if I can swing it, this would be what I'd end up with.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Sun, 11 Oct 2009 06:27:48 GMT
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Oh damn, didn't realize that was the combo price!! Very nice deal, wow I must be out of it. I'm using my hyper 212 on my 920, haven't OC'ed yet, but getting about 60C load temps. Should be able to hit 3.8-4.0 safely.

The extra 20GB for less money is awesome. I love my SSD, 13 seconds into Windows, 1st in game in every game...you can't beat them

So did you grab the Micro or the LE? I used the LE in a buddy's build about 2 months ago, was a nice mobo. From what I've read the Micro is awesome though, so that'd be a tough choice!

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Tue, 01 Dec 2009 05:04:50 GMT
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I was thrown a financial changeup, so my plans are a little more modest.

So now, I've got a Phenom 955 and MSI 790FX-GD70 coming my way that I got for 300 bucks,

plus a Corsair 750TX.

So now I'm gonna be on the lookout for bargains for RAM, HD's and a GFX card or two. I'll be posting on HWC forums for questions regarding that stuff, but if anyone here has some ideas about good DDR3 Dual Channel that could allow me to have a decent OC, that'd be great.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by _SSnipe_ on Tue, 01 Dec 2009 05:36:30 GMT
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Tell me how it goes, I heard MSI sucks.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Tue, 01 Dec 2009 05:48:47 GMT
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(SSnipe) -BLU3Y3Z- wrote on Mon, 30 November 2009 23:36Tell me how it goes, I heard MSI sucks.

I thought you had the MSI 790FX GD70?

I have another MSI board and it works perfectly fine. They've got their act together, although it seems they're a little slow on BIOS updates. But that shouldn't be a huge deal for this board because it's been out a while.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by _SSnipe_ on Tue, 01 Dec 2009 05:49:47 GMT
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nikki6ixx wrote on Mon, 30 November 2009 21:48(SSnipe) -BLU3Y3Z- wrote on Mon, 30 November 2009 23:36Tell me how it goes, I heard MSI sucks.

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Naw, I did plan on spending about 800 for a new pc, but instead bought alll cloths, still best decision I made its really paying off.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Tue, 01 Dec 2009 05:53:52 GMT

(SSnipe) -BLU3Y3Z- wrote on Mon, 30 November 2009 23:49nikki6ixx wrote on Mon, 30 November 2009 21:48(SSnipe) -BLU3Y3Z- wrote on Mon, 30 November 2009 23:36Tell me how it goes, I heard MSI sucks.

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Naw, I did plan on spending about 800 for a new pc, but instead bought alll cloths, still best decision I made its really paying off.

lol!

Ok, well I'll be sure to tell you how it goes, although I don't have all the components yet.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Spyder on Tue, 01 Dec 2009 08:36:44 GMT

I never had any problems with my ASUS motherboards. But I had a lot of trouble with my ASRock motherboards.

Ontopic: Don't know the brand, but I think you'll be better off with an ASUS, Gigabyte or MSI motherboard.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by luv2pb on Tue, 01 Dec 2009 17:32:09 GMT

I've always used Asus boards and I have nothing negative to say about them.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Tue, 01 Dec 2009 20:03:54 GMT

MSI has next to no CS, but other than that I've heard nothing but good things about their boards, so I'm sure it was a good choice. If you're looking for some good deals on RAM check out the sales at NCIX I suppose or newegg. Should be able to pick up a decent set for $80 for some good OCs. 4870 would be a good buy for a card.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Omar007 on Tue, 01 Dec 2009 22:12:07 GMT
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Best choice would be either ASUS or Gigabyte imo

I have an ASUS P5QL atm and it works like a charm! First i considered a Gigabyte but i took an ASUS because it was for my budget the best MoBo for the price/quality

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Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Wed, 02 Dec 2009 01:10:51 GMT
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Homey wrote on Tue, 01 December 2009 15:03MSI has next to no CS, but other than that I've heard nothing but good things about their boards, so I'm sure it was a good choice. If you're looking for some good deals on RAM check out the sales at NCIX I suppose or newegg. Should be able to pick up a decent set for $80 for some good OCs. 4870 would be a good buy for a card.

Yeah, I'm going into this knowing their customer support isn't on par with the other companies. However, I think things should be fine; there's a good amount of resources for the board, and it has a pretty decent fanbase.

I'm watching NCIX and other sites like a hawk for good DDR3, but it seems as if DDR3 isn't as cheap as it was only a few months ago. My concern is whether I should aim for 1333 with timings in around 7-7-7-20ish, or 1600 with higher timings, at a higher price. Voltages are also making me a bit confused, because it seems AMD needs 1.65V whereas Intel's P55 is at 1.5V.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Wed, 02 Dec 2009 20:20:34 GMT
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Stick with the lower ram unless you're going to OC, I don't know too much about AMD and what clock base ratio shit it needs. But for an i7 1600 is enough to OC to a pretty high number.

Yeah, PC parts have gone up recently, video card shortages, SSD part shortages. Just gotta get a nice sale.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Sat, 05 Dec 2009 03:26:34 GMT
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I'll just wait until I find a good deal on decent 1333 RAM then. Seems AMD doesn't play nicely with 1600.

Good call on the 4870. I was unpleasantly surprised when I saw the numbers for the 5770, and some real performance hits coming from Dirt 2's DX11 mode, so I picked up an XFX 4870 locally for 120 bucks and it'll tide me over no problem.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Sat, 05 Dec 2009 04:27:27 GMT
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nikki6ixx wrote on Fri, 04 December 2009 22:26I'll just wait until I find a good deal on decent 1333 RAM then. Seems AMD doesn't play nicely with 1600.

Good call on the 4870. I was unpleasantly surprised when I saw the numbers for the 5770, and some real performance hits coming from Dirt 2's DX11 mode, so I picked up an XFX 4870 locally for 120 bucks and it'll tide me over no problem.
Nice price on that card!

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Sun, 06 Dec 2009 02:47:16 GMT
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So I've been eying this GSkill SSD:

http://www.ncix.com/products/index.php?sku=46519

The 64GB Vertex has a rebate but still comes out substantially more expensive. Plus, it seems this GSkill has the new Indilinx Barefoot controller and speeds are respectable. I'm wondering if I should grab it at 209.99 (even though it's on backorder) or wait it out and see if any rebates or sales come my way.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Sun, 06 Dec 2009 07:46:42 GMT
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Good choice, I got the 60GB Vertex for $200 at newegg before MIR. Love SSD's =). As long as they're second gen SSD's and not the first gen shit ones, it's all good.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Mon, 07 Dec 2009 16:28:14 GMT
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Newegg.ca had a 'Shellshocker' OCZ Vertex 30GB for 109.99 after MIR, so I snagged one. I don't have many games at the moment, so it should be suitable for running Win XP, and Team Fortress

2, which is all I really need for now. Then I'll throw it into my netbook when something better comes along.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Tue, 08 Dec 2009 08:01:05 GMT
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nikki6ixx wrote on Mon, 07 December 2009 11:28Newegg.ca had a 'Shellshocker' OCZ Vertex 30GB for 109.99 after MIR, so I snagged one. I don't have many games at the moment, so it should be suitable for running Win XP, and Team Fortress 2, which is all I really need for now. Then I'll throw it into my netbook when something better comes along.
I saw that, not too bad relative to current prices. a 30gb is fine for xp, make sure you check out ocz's forums on how to properly format the drive for XP. Few other tweaks on there as well.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Thu, 10 Dec 2009 05:35:57 GMT
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Homey wrote on Tue, 08 December 2009 02:01nikki6ixx wrote on Mon, 07 December 2009 11:28Newegg.ca had a 'Shellshocker' OCZ Vertex 30GB for 109.99 after MIR, so I snagged one. I don't have many games at the moment, so it should be suitable for running Win XP, and Team Fortress 2, which is all I really need for now. Then I'll throw it into my netbook when something better comes along.
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Yeah, if it wasn't an OCZ, I wouldn't have pulled the trigger. Their support's great, and they have a garbage collection tool for those of us who still want to run XP for a while. As long as it fits XP, Ren, and Steam/TF2, I'm a happy dude.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Homey on Thu, 10 Dec 2009 06:31:44 GMT
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Ren, and Steam/TF2, I'm a happy dude.
XP = 4GB
TF2 = 10GBish
Ren = 2GB w/ maps and such, so you have lots to spare.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Thu, 10 Dec 2009 16:48:14 GMT
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Man, go figure. I head onto the family PC and Outlook's on the screen with a purchase confirmation from NCIX for a 60GB Agility. Looks like my brothers knew what I wanted for Christmas.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by nikki6ixx on Mon, 21 Dec 2009 05:07:02 GMT
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(SSnipe) -BLU3Y3Z- wrote on Mon, 30 November 2009 23:36Tell me how it goes, I heard MSI sucks.

Everything is working great so far. I've been stressing this board and the CPU and it just keeps coming back for more. The VRM heatsink does get a little warm, so it might be worth your time to take it off, clean off MSI's thermal grease, and then add your own if you're inclined.

Subject: Re: Motherboard Question
Posted by Renx on Mon, 21 Dec 2009 05:47:58 GMT
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I've owned 2 ASUS and 1 DFI (group of engineers that split from ASUS) and all have worked exceedingly well. I assume my ASUS laptop has an ASUS mobo, and it also works perfectly.