

# Purchasing a Windows PC for **FrameReady**

Purchasing a new PC (Personal Computer) can be an overwhelming experience. There are hundreds of makes and models, and thousands of different parts and features that differ from system to system. This guide was written to help any new, or experienced computer user better understand what they need to be looking for when purchasing a new computer for use with FrameReady software.

<b>Operating System</b>	<b>Recommended Computer</b>
Windows XP <sup>®</sup> Home/Professional (Service Pack 3)	Intel <sup>®</sup> Core 2 Duo 1.5GHz or faster 1 GB RAM DirectX 9 Graphics Device, 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
Windows Vista <sup>®</sup> Home, Business, Ultimate (Service Pack 1)	Intel <sup>®</sup> Core 2 Duo 1.5GHz or faster 1 GB RAM DirectX 9 Graphics Device, 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
Windows 7 <sup>®</sup> Home, Business, Ultimate	Intel <sup>®</sup> Core 2 Duo 1.5GHz or faster 1 GB RAM DirectX 9 Graphics Device, 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
*Windows Server <sup>®</sup> 2003/2008	Intel <sup>®</sup> Core 2 Duo 1.5GHz or faster 2 GB RAM DirectX 9 Graphics Device, 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

## **Processors (CPU):**

The processor is basically the brain of the computer. Every task that the computer does is handled by the processor. The processor is the most important part in a computer and there are a few things you should know about this component.

The most basic characteristic that separates one from another is how fast they operate, measured in Mega Hertz (MHz) or Giga Hertz (GHz) (1000 MHz = 1.0 GHz). Nearly all new computers on the market today contain a processor of at least 1.0 GHz.

Intel<sup>®</sup> produces two types of processors; Multi Core (Core 2 Duo, Core 2 Quad, i5 and i7) and Celeron. The most notable difference is the price. A computer with a Multi Core will cost more than one with a Celeron. The reason for the price difference is the enhanced performance of the Multi Core. The Celeron is an affordable product, suitable for basic daily tasks, which operates at slower speeds and processes less data at a time. The Multi Core is a more advanced CPU designed for multitasking (operating several programs at once) and very complex and demanding tasks.

SoftTouch Solutions Inc. recommends any Intel<sup>®</sup> Multi Core processor at 1.5 GHz or higher for use with FrameReady software. The performance advantage and greater ability to multitask, will allow FrameReady to process information faster and more efficiently.

## **Random Access Memory (RAM):**

Most new PCs on the market today use a type of RAM called DDR (Double Data Rate). This type of RAM is more than twice the speed of RAM used in older computers. RAM temporarily holds the data that your

computer currently needs. This data can then be accessed by the CPU to perform the task that the user requested. The more memory that a computer has, the more data it can hold for the CPU. This allows the CPU to process data faster and more efficiently.

When selecting the amount of RAM to have installed in a new computer, you basically want to install as much as you can afford (without going overboard). SoftTouch Solutions Inc. recommends having at least 1-2 GB of RAM installed.

### **Hard Drives:**

When purchasing a new PC, it is recommended that the computer be equipped with a minimum of a 100 GB hard drive. This size would allow nearly limitless entries into FrameReady, as well as adequate space for other programs that may be required (e.g. Accounting software, Microsoft® Office, etc.).

### **CD Drives:**

To install the FrameReady program, a CD-ROM drive is required. When purchasing a PC, SoftTouch Solutions Inc. recommends that it is also equipped with a DVD Writer (DVD-R/DVD+R). This type of DVD drive will allow the user to create backup copies of their FrameReady data. Regular backups are very important and should be done daily to insure against any data loss which can happen in any computer system.

### **Operating Systems:**

The current and upcoming versions of FrameReady software require the minimum of Microsoft® Windows XP, Windows Vista or Windows 7. Windows 7 has quickly become the standard operating system in nearly all new personal computers, however there are several different versions of Windows 7. All versions are outlined below. SoftTouch Solutions Inc. strongly recommends Windows XP Pro, Vista Business or Windows 7 Business.

#### ***Windows 7 Home:***

Provides a re-designed user interface making commonly used tasks and programs easier to find. An improved Network Setup Wizard makes for simple and reliable home network setup. Advanced multitasking capabilities allow for more programs to run simultaneously.

#### ***Windows 7 Business:***

Provides the user with all of the features and benefits of Windows 7 Home Premium. Includes additional networking resources, such as Remote Desktop. Protection from hardware failure with complete PC Backup/Restore.

#### ***Windows 7 Ultimate:***

Provides the user with all of the features and benefits of Windows 7 Business. Improved data protection with BitLocker® Drive Encryption.

### **Where to Purchase:**

When purchasing a new computer, try to stay away from “*Bargain PCs*” as much as possible. Computers follow the general rule: “*You get what you pay for*”. Web sites and catalogs offer PCs for a far better price than a retail store, however by going to a recognized retailer, you get personal service and professional advice. Happy shopping.

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