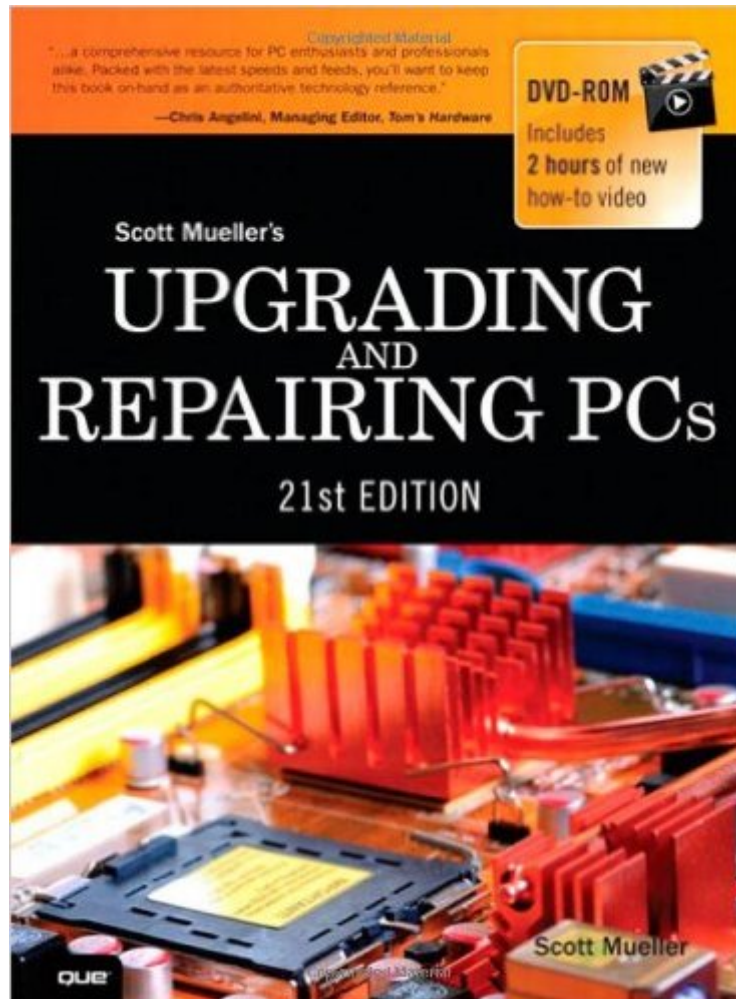


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Upgrading And Repairing PCs (21st Edition)



Synopsis

For 25 years, *Upgrading and Repairing PCs* has been the world's #1 guide to PC hardware: The single source for reliable information on troubleshooting and fixing problems, adding hardware, optimizing performance, and building new PCs. Now, better than ever, this 21st edition offers beefed-up coverage of the newest hardware innovations and maintenance techniques, plus more than two hours of new DVD video. • Scott Mueller delivers practical answers about PC processors, motherboards, buses, BIOSes, memory, SSD and HDD storage, video, audio, I/O, input devices, networks, Internet connectivity, power, and much more. You'll find the industry's best coverage of diagnostics, testing, and repair • plus cutting-edge discussions of improving performance via overclocking and other techniques. • Mueller has taught thousands of professionals in person and millions more through his books and videos • nobody knows more about keeping PCs running perfectly. Whether you're a professional technician, a small business owner trying to save money, or a home PC enthusiast, this is the only PC hardware book you need! • NEW IN THIS EDITION • The newest processors, including Intel's 3rd generation Ivy Bridge Core i-Series processors and AMD's 2nd generation Trinity CPUs • 3TB (and larger) disks, 4K sectoring, partition alignment, faster SATA disk interfaces, and SSD (solid state drive) hard drive replacements • New firmware innovations, from full UEFI BIOS support to built-in motherboard flash BIOS upgrade utilities • Integrated video and audio, including 5.1/7.1 surround sound, HDMI, and DisplayPort connections, and Windows 8 compatible multi-touch touchscreen technology • Updated PCI Express 3.0, 4.0 interfaces, and Power Supply specifications for powering high-end video cards • Emerging interfaces such as SATA Express, USB 3.0, and Thunderbolt • Updated coverage of building PCs from scratch • from choosing and assembling hardware through BIOS setup and troubleshooting • • • • • ON THE DVD • Get 2 hours of up-to-the minute, studio-quality how-to videos • all playable on your DVD player or computer! In this edition, Scott Mueller offers true insider information about several of the key components in a PC, including motherboards, solid-state drives, and more. • You will see a detailed tour of a modern high-performance motherboard, showing all the components from the processor socket and CPU voltage regulators to the audio and network chipsets, and more. You'll learn how all the devices on the board are interconnected, so you can more easily understand their importance. There is a detailed segment comparing solid-state drives (SSDs) to conventional hard disk drives (HDDs), explaining all the differences and similarities between them in an easy to understand fashion. Finally, there are several segments on building a state-of-the art system from scratch using a high-performance overclockable motherboard and processor combination. You'll see tips on

how to best prepare the components, how to assemble the system properly, how to make the front panel connections much easier to deal with, and finally how to route the cables for maximum airflow and ease of future upgrades or repairs. This DVD also contains the complete 19th and 20th editions of this book in printable form, plus extensive technical reference material, a comprehensive glossary, and more!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I purchased the 21st Edition of Upgrading and Repairing PCs, based upon reviews of previous editions of the book. I have built a few desktop PCs (reading other books and materials online to do so) and have replaced internal parts including memory, hard drives, video and sound cards, over the past 12 years. I consider myself an advanced intermediate in terms of upgrading and repairing PCs, with a desire to learn more. Getting a book with the latest information on this subject was important to me. This 21st edition, is the first I've seen from this author, is impressive and fit my needs perfectly! Who should buy this book? I think this book would be useful to anyone from a beginner to a strong intermediate PC user who is interested in building and repairing PCs. Those preparing to take specific IT related tests like the A+ Certification Exam, would also find it helpful and undoubtedly it is or will be used as a textbook for either high school or college students. What is included? You get this comprehensive hardbound book along with 45 days of FREE online access to the online edition of this book (code at back of the book) and a 2 hour DVD in which the author

shows the components of a PC build and how they go together. His hands on approach is easy to understand and pleasant to watch. What will I learn with this book? Twenty chapters cover everything from the Development of the PC to PC Diagnostics, Testing and Maintenance. Networking, hardware types and functions, and building and upgrading systems are also covered. Basically anything hardware related - not software - for PCs is comprehensively covered by this 1000+ page book. Is it overly technical?

If you know me, you'll know that I'm a software guy. Specifically, I'm a software developer. I don't want to build my own PC. I want to turn it on and have it work. When it doesn't work right, I start to get really nervous. I hate to open up the case and look inside any of my PCs. And I can't tell you how many times I've seriously hosed my machine by attempting to install a new piece of hardware or memory. Bottom line... I don't like hardware. So why am I reviewing a book on PC hardware? Because fear is no excuse for not understanding the device that allows me to make my living. Having worked a little with this book, I can honestly say that I would have saved myself a lot of grief if I knew about this book earlier. It is amazing. Scott Mueller covers everything you can think of that you'll find in your PC. He also includes both the "what is" and "how to" details of the devices. For instance, you can read the chapters on magnetic storage and hard disk storage to understand how a hard drive works. He then takes you from the theoretical knowledge to the practical information on how to install a new hard drive in your PC. When I had to install a hard drive about a year ago after a drive failure, I truly had no clue as to what I was doing. While I was successful, it was an extremely stressful experience. If I had been able to review these chapters beforehand, I could have actually learned from the process instead of running scared through the ordeal. In this 15th anniversary edition, there is also a DVD with two hours of video related to the book. I haven't had the time yet to review the DVD material, but I have no doubt that it will be of the same high quality as the book.

I have purchased three of the last five revisions of this book, and bought the latest as a matter of course when it first became available. It's the first one where I have wished that I had looked at it physically before purchase, because I would have not purchased it had I done so. For many years, this volume has been an industry standard, on the desktops of tech support personnel, PC purchasing agents, vocational educators, and hobbyists. It has grown like Topsy with each revision, steadily becoming larger and larger as more and more detail regarding newer releases in x86-compatible desktop and mobile CPUs, bus types, form factors, and compatibility issues

evolved. However, previous standards are described often in mind-numbing and wordy detail as well. While some editing has taken place, it's not nearly enough. If you have one of the last two or three editions of this book, don't buy this one. It's just more paper weighing down your already sagging bookshelf. If you are starting from scratch, this may still be a useful book, but be warned: it's a colossal aggregation of data, much of it of historical interest only. Much of the "legacy" data is of primary interest to embedded systems designers and developers, but Mueller is strictly a desktop person: embedded people will be frustrated with this volume. Also, Mueller is wholly Microsoft-centric, meaning that there is a lot of DOS and NT stuff in here but no Unix, Unix-like (Linux or Free/Open/NetBSD), or embeddable (VxWorks or QNX) information whatsoever.

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