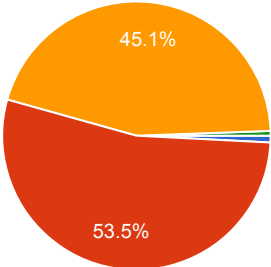


6677 responses

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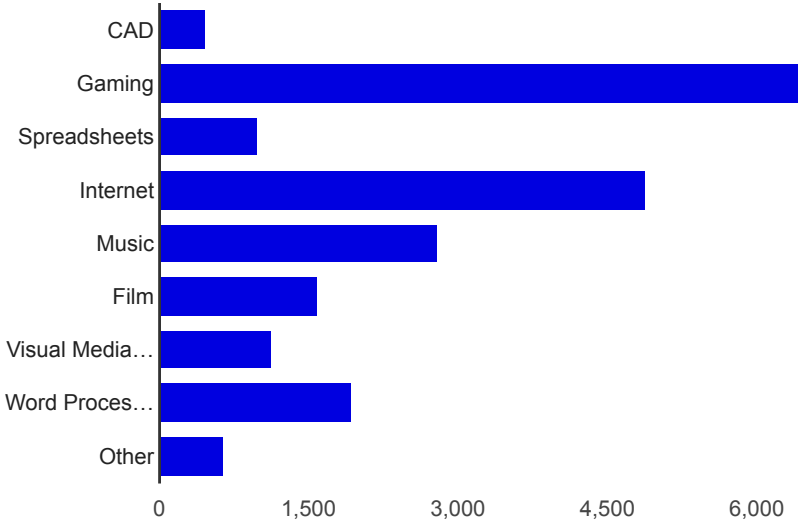
Summary

What do you use your computer for?



| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------|
| Professional use | 54 | 0.8% |
| Recreational use | 3559 | 53.5% |
| Both | 2998 | 45.1% |
| Other | 38 | 0.6% |

What is the primary use of your computer?



| | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------|
| CAD | 472 | 7.1% |
| Gaming | 6415 | 96.4% |
| Spreadsheets | 976 | 14.7% |
| Internet | 4887 | 73.4% |
| Music | 2804 | 42.1% |
| Film | 1588 | 23.9% |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Visual Media (Creative) | 1126 | 16.9% |
| Word Processing | 1924 | 28.9% |
| Other | 648 | 9.7% |

Comments

Porn

Yes

Programming

Mainly use it to game and watch Youtube videos and such. The typical stuff

You left off development? For reals?

Am also a software dev

Also used for internet, word processing, and Econometric analysis (mostly using Stata)

It's a gaming PC, but also covers all bases when I have to work from home.

School takes up a lot of my time on the computer, sadly.

Primarily music production & gaming (VR)

Using CUDA to write programs that run on the gpu

Also personal finance, programming, general farting around...

Comments on what?

All round workhorse, never want to limit my hardware to a single use.

90% for fun, 10% to supplement my work computer

Also music production.

Moo

also coding

I ticked only one option, but i do use my computer for internet/music/movies, only to a lesser extent

I mainly use my PC to play games and produce music

Web and Java development primarily

I like chocolate milk.

Graphic Design, Gaming and Internet usage

Gaming as I stream on twitch and Video editing as my daughter has a youtube toy channel

Plex

Film as in watching movies and series

Built it in just the purpose of having to never pay for online gaming, and also because it seemed fun. Got into recording my games recently and thoroughly enjoy it.

The PC is purely for gaming, I have a Mac for everything else.

I use my PC as an overall media center.

AYY

Had wanted to get into pc gaming for a while.

No programming, professional development/education, roadwarrior/work-from-home, finance, scheduling, hardware/software development or other professional uses as options? You've just listed some of the basics, creatives and that's it.

(Computer Science major)

I used to use my desktop primarily for work but now I play video games on my desktop and work on my macbook. Transitioning to gaming on my Switch more now too so the desktop is collecting dust.

Bernie 2020

I use my PC for gaming and school work and it works amazing for me but I sadly have to use my cheaper laptop for classes since my desktop isn't portable.

I occasionally work with CAD/spreadsheets/word processing, but these cover 90% of my computer use.

I do many other things as well. But my main reason was to game.

Gaming with some small server ability

My desktop PC that I built is primarily used for personal use, but I do use it for work from time to time when I work at home. I have a work laptop, but I'll often have documents open on both that laptop and my home desktop while working.

I'm a teacher, also use it for creating lesson plans.

I also stream and make video for myself and upload them. But nothing professional.

Grass tastes bad.

Mostly video editing with some gaming on the side

I use estimating software, ms office, chrome, and games

Built for gaming, with solidworks in mind

Without nothing can be done!

Currently an engineering student

I am a game designer who likes to make other things too.

Porn obviously

No comment

Add programming as an option, please!

epic gameing

I do some video editing also

Gaming and gaming related activities

Finance, design, movies and a little gaming so much better on a ultrawide display.

Daily user, for school and play.

Adobe Photoshop, Premere workstation

GIS mapping as well. Mostly to look at geographical site info.

I also have a light laptop for work use involving about an hour of browser based paperwork, but I do not do work on my home computer.

I'm a graduate student. I play games and do research-related tasks (statistics, presentations, data management, etc.)

Visual Media is mainly Lightroom and Photoshop.

Gaming, info for school and leisurely studying when I'm bored

I am a partner in a software quality assurance firm and do custom computer work and repairs locally as a sole proprietor. I also play a lot of Counter Strike and Minecraft.

PCMR!

Pron

Studying/Programming

Poop

specifically, writing/recording/mixing music, not listening to albums i own.

I use two comps with a screen sharing program for just about anything/everything.

I play as much as any PC gamer but my school has become much more tech centric and I have been using it more for class

Mainly for school/personal use.

I use it for gaming, but also some CAD work, and school work.

Community

Word Processing and Internet for work, Gaming and Internet for play, about equally.

Media server

Also programming

Consuming music and film, not creating

VR gaming

A bit biased; I have a laptop that I use for word processing and programming, and therefore my desktop is relegated to just gaming

Hello!

The primary purpose isn't what really determines the configuration of my computer. Even though the most important thing I do with my primary machine is email, and that doesn't take much power, I got a powerful box because I occasionally do things that require higher end specs. I got a ton of RAM because I do enormous spreadsheets once in a while. I got a high end GPU because I game occasionally.

Have two PCs, one for gaming and non-pro stuff, one for CAD

Sometimes I dream about cheese

I do use it from work from time to time but it's very rare.

Primary Work is 3D CAD (30-100 Part Assemblies), Primary Personal is Gaming (AAA Titles)

I actually pull 4K satellite feeds from mine.

:)

It is my work machine built for efficient use of the Adobe Creative Suite. I also play Overwatch on it.

General./school use + high-end gaming

This is Music and Film consumption, not production (I watch and listen to stuff, but I don't produce that kind of content).

use it for games, movies and also work. Reddit as well

On the side I make terrible memes

Why would coronary artery disease be a primary use of a computer?

Thanks, Sam

I built the rig primarily for gaming, but use it for office work as and when I need to

I make and produce comics using photoshop and inDesign.

Fluid Dynamics

<insert clever comment here>

And gaming sometimes

LARGE spreadsheets with lots of calculations.

you really need a development option here!

I utilize my PC as an htpc (mainly because my living quarters are too small to allow for a desk), but do all of my gaming on it.

Netflix usually plays on a second monitor while gaming.

School

PC was built with gaming in mind, but I work from home using it too.

Video editor

65% Gaming, 25% Internet, 10% Visual Media

I work in IT and my gf has a work at home job. We use it extensively.

Still finding more things that I can do on the pc that I wouldn't have tried with a stock pc.

Programming and school are my other uses.

Electronics

Built initially for gaming, but mainly use it for school now.

primary use is a downloading client + pushes out content to all the other devices on my network

Netflix/YouTube/Steam/Google Docs

Potater

Mostly gaming, but used for schoolwork and music production occasionally.

Fap machine

porn

Steam machine ftw

I enjoy gaming and producing stuff on good rig.

I game on it a lot, and I use the internet primarily on it.

Ok

'Visual Media' means simply recording/cutting gaming footage, nothing professional, just for fun

College student, gamer, film and photography hobbies!

3D Rendering, Gaming, Music production

Primarily built for gaming, but use the computer as a workstation.

Dual monitors

Mostly gaming and YouTube but plenty of what is listed above

Coding

I also do a little 3D modeling on the side as a hobby

I'd include streaming and social streaming

I work as a videographer

I build my computers with both heavy art programs in mind as well as gaming, so they pretty much end up a jack of all trades setup.

Internet includes work, such as finding papers needed for research (lab work, graduate student)

Photoshop, lightroom

I use my work laptop for most of my work-related computer use, so I built the desktop computer for gaming. However, I do use the desktop computer for work-related matters it is

better suited for than the laptop (e.g. creating videos) as well as for casual activities like internet browsing.

Where's programming

Also used for light coding and heavy web browsing

I mainly use my desktop PC for gaming and personal use at home, while I use my laptop for mostly schoolwork.

I'm actually studying programming and I usually test some servers in VM to test the programs.

Mostly gaming though

I loves muh 'puter, loves muh 'puter...

How is programming not one of the options? It's one of the most popular uses of a computer, especially among custom builds.

I make music by my computer

Bad question. "Primary use" should be radio buttons, not checkboxes." You can't get good data with shit questions. I'd deny your PhD for just that.

Homework + Gaming

My computer is central to daily communication through email and reports. It also serves as an important tool for design and project organization.

University work/projects. Casual gaming.

I'm a college student and a gamer so you can conclude my PC usage with that description.

One PC is for gaming, the other is a media server

PCMR > Everything

Mostly gaming

Basically a gaming rig, but also used for studying purposes and of course some browsing (reason I'm now filling this questionnaire) and watching a film from time to time.

I built my PC primarily for playing games, however I also use it to render and work on CAD drawings for my engineering course and working on schoolwork in general.

Built for gaming but work and school consumes most of my time.

I'm a chemical engineer, so I need to analyze data and write reports on it. Also, like to Game in my free time.

Intended for gaming, but the machine is also used for minor sound and video ending

I mean I do school work too, mostly on the browser or photoshop though

Built for gaming; mostly used for YouTube and Reddit.

personal computer for film, internet, and gaming. work computer for spreadsheets and word processing.

I'm a physics graduate student, and use my PC as my primary simulation/calculation workhorse.

Usually for Gaming and Music Production

Primarily Gaming, with a bit of Photoshop/Illustrator and Netflix.

Due to my work I use a lot of high end visual software and on my downtime I do 3d animation. Plus some gaming for relaxation.

After Effects, Blender etc...

Recording, Mixing, Mastering of Music

3D printing

I7-6700K, GTX 1080

what goes here

Engineering student

Music production

Listening to/Learning music. Learning from reddit/youtube videos Playing games/editing my shit highlights into videos lol

Intended to be for hobbyist programming too, but I have yet to even install Unity, much less make money off of anything I've ever programmed.

internal and external network access

Built for gaming; occasionally used for homework, accounting work, and home media.

It does what I need it to, if not I make it worthy

Attorney and PC gamer. Primarily work from my office (large law firm), but frequently do some work from my PC at home.

Mainly gaming

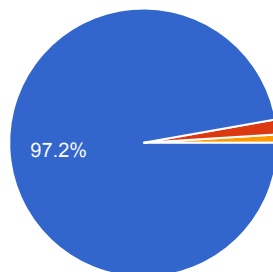
school work

It crashes every now and then on Steam games so it's been pissing me off lately.

It runs my work development environment in a Linux VM, but otherwise is primarily a gaming machine.

80% gaming

Did you build it yourself or buy from a custom company?



| | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------|
| Self-built | 6464 | 97.2% |
| Custom company | 119 | 1.8% |
| Other | 66 | 1% |

Comments

Bought parts from local store

Followed tutorials on how to build it

By "custom" I mean Micro Center.

I bought a used computer about a year ago and Upgraded it

Cyber Power PC

Friend of the family did the physical building and helped pick out parts

Considering that I can from buildapc, pretty sure most over there are self built.

building a pc by yourself is one of the best way to save money in the real world

Picked the parts, but let the company build it.

I enjoyed being able to pick my own parts and tailor them to a certain color scheme.

I eat ass

It evolved with the time as i added lor changed some components

I've built my own systems for over 20 years

I'll be building new in a few months for the same uses

Prefer to know exactly what is in my PC as well as having control over the design.

Ship of Theseus

Its a beast: <https://pcpartpicker.com/list/6pWpWX>

And it is sweet plus it has 8 hot swap hard drive bays

Moo cow

Custom built and upgraded over time

Way more cost effective when self built

Had a prebuilt dell but then I made myself one

Couldn't see anyone else building my system for me. I wanted to get my hands on it and do it myself. Took a lot of time and effort to get it just right and can't be more satisfied.

LMAO

Since purchasing off Craigslist, I have swapped parts, and completely gutted the system and reinstalled everything multiple times for cleaning and replacing parts

I built that shit.

Started as prebuilt, but I have upgraded pretty much everything now

Alternate

pc - self built, and a mac

it's not bad, just be careful with CPU

Porn

Was fun to build on my own with the help of YouTube videos.

I plan on getting a self-built PC soon.

Built it myself with a lot of help from /r/buildapc and google.

Mini itx

I was pretty nervous because I didn't want to screw things up, so I had a buddy walk me through some things. Looking back I easily could've done it myself, but was glad to have help.

Bought everything from sales on /r/buildapcsales

I did a few months of researching before buying each component and completely building the desktop from scratch.

I purchased the parts gradually over a period of a couple months, not all at once or in a short period of time

i5-6600, rx480, corsair c70

Custom Built a long time ago, but Upgraded over time by me

I did my first self-built PC recently

Wubba Lubba Dub Dub!

PCMR

If I build it myself and something goes wrong I know what it is.

Fx8300, asrock 970m pro, 1050ti, 2tb HDD, 256tb SSD, 500 watt power supply, tesaract deepcool case, this is my first build ever

No comment

-

very powerful as a gamer

r/buildapc inspired me to do it

Max RAM, speed, value, modest OC

If you want a custom PC, the best experience is to build it yourself. It's more personal and you are more in control of what you do want and don't want inside the machine. Personally, flashy lights are over kill. Mini-ITX rigs forever!

The only reason I wish I had a company build it is for some aesthetically pleasing cable wiring and liquid cooling

Got my pc from lbuypower. I have a lot more knowledge with building a computer now. I wish I could build one from scratch now. Prices have drop and new hardware is out.

<https://uk.pcpartpicker.com/user/Shef/saved/xNtRBm>

First computer I have built

Maybe add a distinction between: custom-ordered and prebuilt?

Did start off pre-built but iv replaced everything but the dvd drive since

Got my dad to help out.

I regret not fully building it myself.

Hey, it's got a 64 bit processor and the battery life on Linux isn't terrible. Admittedly, the newest game I run on it is Half Life.

parts from micro center

Used parts from previously owned "junked" pre-built PCs and off the shelf components to build

I used a ton of old hardware and I built a \$250 PC that can play overwatch at epic. I'm not bragging or anything

Why pay someone else to build a PC when I can do it myself

Went from off shelf to new card to replacing the rest of the parts

My current primary machine was made by a custom company (Gentech PC - it's a customized laptop). I also have other machines I built myself.

Gaming PC was custom and home made. CAD PC was custom configured and ordered assembled, has been modified by me since.

Self-built, but some components came as a set.

:)

I got help choosing part from the reddit /r/buildapc community.

it took only 11 hours 8!

Comment

Thanks, Sam

I built it in 2013

I used PC Part Picker to help put compatible components together, but built it myself.

First computer build

<insert pcmasterace comment here>

Built custom PC in 2013 and then upgraded a few components and transported to a new case.

First build

100% self built computer and upgrades are also self installed.

Specs: i6-7600k, GTX 1070, 16GB RAM,

First self-build

Bought each part at discount and built after all parts came in.

Scan UK

intel xeon e3 1231 v3, gtx 760, 16gb ram, ssd and hdd

RX480 8GB, 24GBs DDR3, 1tb HDD, i5-4690k, MSI h97 PC mate.

Empty space, so I'm saying hello.

Challenged myself and challenge others to put in the time and effort to get what you really want.

Have built two, have MBA and 5 raspberry Pi's

Found parts through PCPartPicker, bought through Newegg/B&H/Amazon.

I used these 2 handz

Do I have to have comments for all of these answers?

8=====D ~~

FIRST TIME BUILDER

Built cause I wanted to mine Dogecoin =D

Built with scrap/reclaimed parts

Self-built pc is best way to go since components will be cheaper than pre-built pc.

I built it myself with little help

Assisted from friend who owns a shop

Ok

Yup

Help from a person in a physical store, and help to put it together.

I slowly upgraded my way here, in hindsight it would probably be a lot cheaper if I get them all fresh because right now, nothing I'm using is from the original rig. If I had to choose I would've built a custom one straight up using a budget.

6700k, 1080

It was a CyberPower PC but I have changed all the components. All the original components are no longer used.

I would've self built mine but my old PC broke down in the middle of my dissertation.

Spent a week off of work about 6 months ago due to injury. Brother had just built high-end computer for audio production and gaming. I had not done any gaming since the Xbox 360 was a current-gen system. I fired up Just Cause 3, Dying Light, and GTA V during the down time. I was very impressed to say the least. I now have my own custom rig with GTX1080s in SLI.

When it comes to value for your money, pre-builts just do not equal the value I get by building myself and have no desire to go that route in the private sector. Though the laptops I have are

just the standard ones that drop.

Yes

Pulled parts from an old alienware and bought/swapped some new ones in

It is actually a mostly second handed PC with a (temporary) blazing fast Q6600 and a defective motherboard which turns off from time to time.

It's the way to go

Built it myself, and I've upgraded hardware over time. Original build date was in 2011, and I just upgraded my CPU from a 2600k to a 7700k a month ago.

I have rebuilt the computer myself, essentially recreating the same process as building a new of from scratch

I have 3 custom built PCs.

It was fun and worth the effort

Built it with 5 other friends who all built their PC's after.

I picked and bought parts, had a local store build for me.

Built 2 PCs for myself and 4 other PCs for friends

i7 3770, AMD RX480 4GB, 16GB DDR3, 1.5TB storage

Built not bought yo

always self build, more experience, more fun

Have changed parts and built other computers myself as well.

only personal computer is self-built. work computers are a dell tower and laptop.

Built it using PCPartPicker, and bought the parts mostly through amazon.

awsome

Also have a work provided laptop

Custom loop as well

Built a hackintosh cause I needed a more powerful computer than apple could provide at a fraction of the cost. I need apple software for the creative work I do.

It was my second build.

what? built several...

Used pcpicker to figure out what I wanted, then bought from jet and amazon.

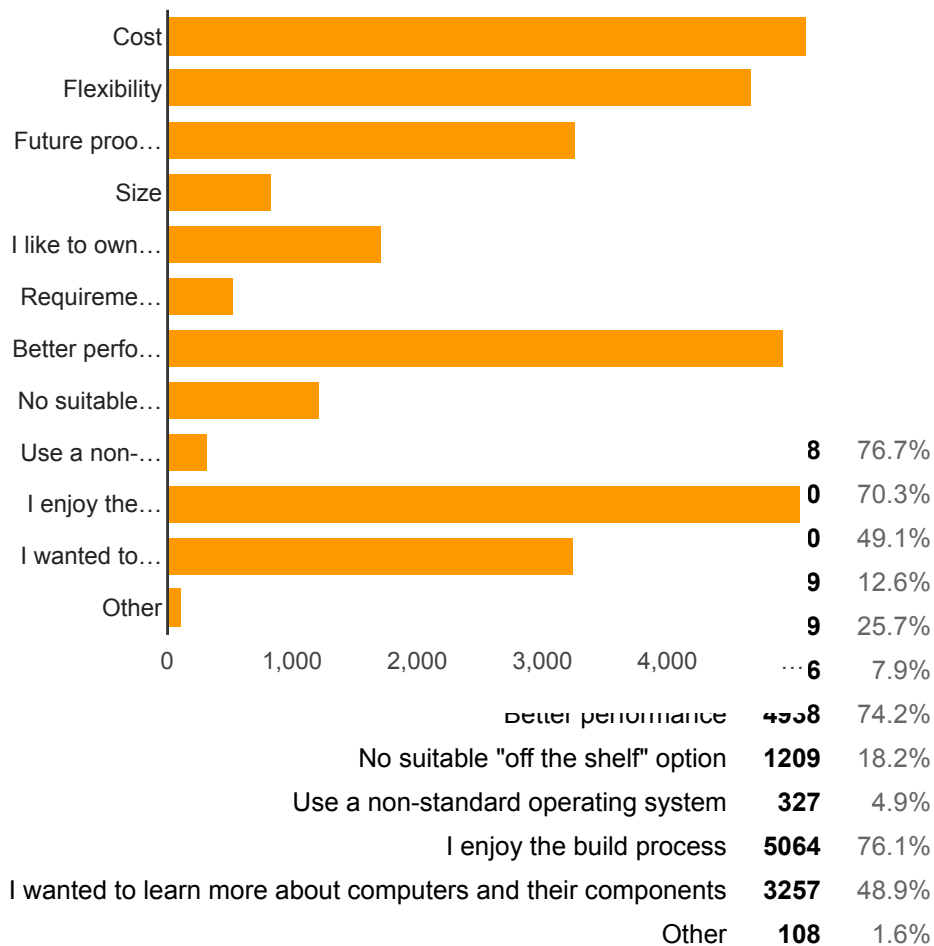
Most pre-builds are extreme rip-offs

with the help of a friend

It was fun. Only took ~1 hour to build and ~3 hours of cable management.

Because it is fun.

What do you consider the primary motivators for building a custom PC?



Comments

It was cheaper for me to build my custom PC with this performance level than to buy one
Money big time.

I wanted to make sure that what I had was tailored to my exact needs.

It helped me and others learn much more about computers and how they work.

Its a gateway to learning about technology

I am a Hackintosh builder

My standard OS is Linux. I rarely bother with Windows.

The build process taught me a lot. I have successfully rehabilitated several old computers now for friends and myself. It was a great learning experience and has proved to be a fairly productive hobby.

This is for me but I appreciate others may build monster machines for better performance that cost loads more than mine.

Largely took advantage of used parts to help drive the prices down farther

Mooooo

In my experience it has only been in the last couple of years that companies have provided pre-built computers to a decent specification without charging a ridiculously high price

Wanted to learn about PCs in general. I was always scared of spending tons and messing up, but after making my first I want to do more and more

I build a new one about once every 7 years; therefore I don't mind spending a bit more than usual.

If I build/support it, easier to replace/upgrade parts as needed. I don't build for non-family as I don't want to support the equipment later.

Overall can't go wrong with PC gaming. Sure console has loads of games and a convenience for most people. But when you can build a system from ground up, get it all working correctly, have your softwares and applications all set, what more could you want? So many customization it's just great.

Swag

Once you know how to do it, there's rarely a prebuilt that's better. Plus it's fun, and you can get exactly what you want.

you read my mind

Porn

To get more bang for the buck

I know that all the components in my PC are high quality.

I wanted to make something for myself with pretty much no help (aside from the internet) because my PC feels more "personal" now.

I haven't bought rebuilt desktop since Clinton was in office.

Never owned a prebuilt PC, technically still on my first one as I just kept upgrading it.

I can do quite a bit with my PC so to have such a versatile device is really beneficial.

Particularly the last one

Last pre-built I bought was a 486 DX2-66

It was very interesting building a custom computer. I looked online at different pre-built and they were so much more expensive than what I was looking at building for myself. I saved several hundred dollars.

All my pc parts are black. I'm special.

Ricky Ticky Taffy, Biatch!

Built it in an old Packard Bell case. So it looks like a crappy computer that nobody would steal. It's a sleeper.

It's really hard to find a machine that is loaded with 20 TB of platters a high end graphics card and bleeding edge performance processors for a reasonable price.

No comment

"Better performance" isn't checked because I would consider it a part of the "cost". It's not like buying the pieces separately and putting them together make them perform better than identical components in a pre-built, but you save enough money that you can put that money towards better parts.

i am more powerful, as a gamer

All about customization, at a fraction of the price of pre-built

Again, inspired by r/buildapc. Have no ulterior motive but don't regret it.

built>bought

I have 2 custom built PCs and they were both chosen for size, but for different reasons. One is in a tiny Ncase M1 and the other is in a huge Phanteks Evolv.

Performance is the big one.

L I N U X I N U X

I could not get a sufficient PC for my needs within my budget unless I built it myself.

Cheaper in the long run and more powerful too.

Dung

Man, ALL OF THESE!

Ease of upgrading in the future, as well (might be future proofing, sorry)

Dude, all of these are mandatory in some form :)

Especially in Europe the savings on building it yourself are massive. Add to that the consumer protection from EU regulations and options to buy cheaper from other EU countries it becomes a very easy choice

Acoustic Dampening

I built my computer due to the poor performance of consoles.

:)

When I was young it was a learning opportunity and very exciting. Now it is simply more efficient and reliable to self-build.

Still mainly using my first custom build for myself after a few years. Built it for future proofing while allowing me to be flexible and make upgrades along the way. I researched the components learning about them more in depth to grow my knowledge while also End the result was better performance

its so easy why would you pay someone else to do it

From my own personal research that I did when I built my comp the price difference between equivalent off-the-shelf and custom rigs is minor to non-existent, favoring custom built very slightly. This is not taking any crazy sales into account. But since you get to pick exactly what you want in your custom PC you won't end up paying for parts you'd rather not have, meaning you get more bang for your buck.

Cost too

Thanks once more, Sam.

It's a really cool process.

<insert smart-ass comment here>

Been doing this for about 14 years. Love it.

I could build a PC with better, more reliable parts for the same price as a pre-built.

Its just so much fun to build it and research all the parts. You learn so much about computers and can fix your problems in the future a lot easier if you build it yourself.

Building and looking up components is fun

Building a PC from scratch was such an exciting experience that, even though I found suitable pre builds for a great cost, I opted for building my own

last point was the main motivation the first time

I really wanted to get the best performance for the price to be able to game and use things like video and photo editors. Mostly gaming though.

Since I've been old enough to have a credit card I've built my own PC, never considered doing anything else.

I like making my own stuff. It makes it more "mine" lol

Have not built one yet

I've been building computers for 20 years (since about 10years old)

Almost everything about the process seemed better than buying premade.

Avocado

At first I wanted a fun gaming rig to spend freetime on, but I fell in love with the process that is building and managing the computer itself.

Size matters

Building the PC is probably the best part. The process is almost therapeutic and it's extremely relaxing.

-

I've always had an interest in computers, so building my own was a huge step into what my future would become.

Ok

Yeah, pretty much

When I first started building it was wanting to learn about components and the enjoyment but over 15 years of building and now it is just the cost per performance and flexibility that keeps me doing so.

No

USA prices

Sexy look

I like to know my system inside out.

I quite enjoy the sense of accomplishment from successfully building a PC.

"I wanted to learn more about computers and their components" only really applies to the first PC I built, 15-odd years ago.

Building PC's is really fun, you can pick whatever you want in the budget you have and create anything you'd like all by yourself.

At least you have "motivators" plural here, but primary is still the wrong word here.

I wanted a high performance computer but I really hate flashy cases.

I wanted a Hackintosh

There is no reason not to build a PC.

1440p 165hz gaming

Most Pre-built machines are designed for gamers, not video transcoding

I'm a build it because it can be built gamer.

just wanted to play on stable fps on decent settings

I always wanted to learn more about computers and become more familiar with the physical side of their operation. I thought this would be a good experience to learn some useful skills and end up with a useful product.

It's usually cheaper to buy individual components from buck wholesalers like Newegg and assemble yourself. With most off the shelf options you pay a little extra for their labor. I don't always want to follow a cookie cutter lay out for my components. I might skimp on the graphics card at first and upgrade it later, which I can plan for during the build process. I am able to pick everything myself which could yield better performance than an off the shelf. I also generally enjoy the assembly and planning process of a new PC.

I find that building the PC gives it more value to me. I care about it a lot more than a prebuilt off the shelf option. Plus, if something goes wrong, I feel that I will know how to solve the problem quicker.

building process was fun, also I got to customize it, future proof it more

It allows you to be much more picky about the specific configuration of the machine.

Bette

I wanted to play newer games, but not end up spending somewhere in the region of €2000 for a pre-built desktop.

Unfortunalty most prebuilt computers are underpowered and over priced

'Size' in this case is not that I wanted a smaller box; I wanted to avoid any thermal issues.

Case is a Corsair 900D.

Lots of fun doing research and picking the right parts.

Cost is mainly in comparison to pre built options (not necessarily that building was objectively cheap)

All of the above are valid reasons, I've selected the most relevant to me!

Non-standard OS in so far as I'm running OSX on PC parts

Fun to build your own computer.

It's fun for me

One of the huge factors in a custom built PC is cost, but not the way most people think. My rig absolutely cost more than most off the shelf rigs, but it is more capable per dollar than an off the shelf rig and, most importantly, I could spread out the money by purchasing a single component every other pay check. A \$2400 off the shelf PC would have required me to use credit with interest.

My current computer is too small for most high end graphic cards.

Computer optimized for what I want not paying for things i wont use.

Just like in games, I enjoy learning everything I can, then figuring out a build that makes the most out of my resources to get what I want. Pre-builts generally cost more and have parts that aren't exactly what I'm looking for.

I assume Debian falls under the non standard operating system

Mass produced units are theoretically cost effective but generally utilize parts of low quality. A self-built desktop tends to last more than twice as long, in my experience, and is therefor a suitable investment. Custom built desktops carry a labor cost premium that prices most consumers out of the market.

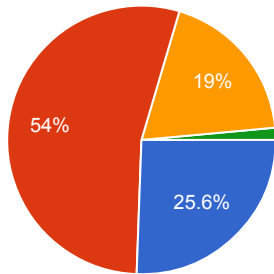
I kind of regret not minoring or majoring in computer science in undergrad because I've also enjoyed learning about computer hardware, software, etc. Doing a build was my way of re-starting my computer science/engineering self-education. I do some intellectual property law for video game and tech hardware company clients, so I also felt that learning more about this process could give me a little more insight into some of those clients' issues.

Pretty much everything but I've ticked them main ones

Mostly cost and performance

Did you spend more on a custom system than you would have done on an off-the-shelf configuration?

Yes **1697** 25.6%



| | | |
|-------|-------------|------|
| No | 3583 | 54% |
| Maybe | 1259 | 19% |
| Other | 97 | 1.5% |

Comments

The fees of the custom company added quite a lot

I thought it would be cheaper- turned out it wasn't!

As I wasn't trying to hit a price-point, I was able to dictate the quality of componentry.

Haven't really compared anything of same specs to my rig.

More options

I spent less than I would have for an equivalent pre-built

yes, but the system I built is far better than what I would have if I'd bought off-the-shelf.

I bought higher quality individual components than equivalent pre builds would use. Like a 1TB SSD

Only because I have kept on upgrading since. Was much cheaper than a custom company

Likely saved \$800-\$1000 by self-building

Bought extra ram and a large case.

Total cost was about \$1000. I probably could have found a prebuilt a little cheaper

May have been more expensive, but I got to use specific parts I wanted

It's great what a \$20 difference can do when buying certain parts, they do eventually add up tho.

An off-the-shelf configuration that had the components I wanted would have cost more in large part because it is impossible to find an off-the-shelf configuration that doesn't include unnecessary peripherals, like optical drives and a built-in Wi-Fi card.

Computer was specifically a Graduation Present to myself, never would have spent as much otherwise.

You can make it your own and spend more on parts you want with specific colors/specs

Nowadays I might have

Spent approx 700\$ less by building versus same pc pre built

Not if we're comparing apples to apples.

The initial build was cost efficient but as I built up a budget for the PC, it started to cost (if bought in bulk) more than off-the-shelf computers, but more unique than the mass produced systems.

If factoring in upgrades over time, it's most likely over. If only what I currently use, it's under.

After upgrading parts over the past year. The initial computer was a low specced configuration

My computer would definitely cost more if it were "off-the-shelf," but I built it myself with 1440p gaming in mind.

Not for an equivalent computer

Prices between individual components and pre-built systems by major OEMs were similar at the time (Q2 2012).

If I tried to get an off-the-shelf configuration with comparable specs it would have cost a lot more.

Cow moo

Maybe? Added RGB lighting that was an unnecessary expense, but one that I wanted.

I would never buy an off the shelf configuration barr laptops.

built this pc more than two years ago, and the equivalent in prebuilt in specialized shops was about 400 euros more

Initially no, but over time (with upgrades and more trivial additions) yes

Although I spent more money on a custom system, there was no other off-the-shelf configuration which would have gave me the same amount of performance.

A pre-built "gaming" pc would have been double the price

While I did spend more then a pre built system I was able to take advantage of sales and purchased each part as cheaply as possible one at a time over a period of several months.

because I could spend more on certain parts, rather than upgrading all of it to get the few parts I am particular about.

That computer I built is not sold on prebuilt

After all said and done, I spent probably around \$1600+ on my system. That's including, extra HDD's, Monitor, Mouse+Keyboard, and what ever else I was looking for.

7K Euro and ongoing

Depends on the system and it's purpose.

Yes, because each individual component does not seem like it would cost as much. Much easier to build over a month or two.

I was willing to spend more on something that I had researched extensively

This isn't a straight forward answer. Would you find a off-the-shelf system with the exact same parts?

Up front, it was a bit cheaper than a similar prefab system. I've upgraded over time, bringing the total cost a bit higher, but going by price vs. lifespan, I still come out on top.

Definitely could have built a desktop with specs on par with this for much cheaper.

With a custom PC, I do not have to worry about spending extra money, as I know I am getting my money's worth out of the system.

Off the shelf configurations are usually either overpriced or underpowered.

Better performance than pre-built models with similar pricing

Porn

I saved anywhere from a few hundred to a thousand USD when compared to similar retailers. i have spent more over time on my build and accessories than i would have ever flat out paid for a prebuilt.

Didn't check

I saved nearly \$1000 building it myself waiting for parts to go on sale

It depends on how much a pre built computer that has the specification desired costs

I wanted a gaming and workstation which would have cost an arm and a leg more than I paid building my own.

Only if it comes with RGB LEDs :P

No one was offering the specific configuration I build so I couldn't compare

Tried getting something off-the-shelf but it would perform worse and it costed a lot more.

I know exactly what I want and prebuilts with the same parts are just overpriced.

Retail employee discount, far cheaper

I could have bought a cheaper pre-built, but I don't think I could have gotten much less power.

I spent about \$650 at first and would've saved about \$200 with the mail in rebates. didn't think they were worth it at the time. Since then I think I've made some decent changes and put about \$400 worth of upgrades.

I've upgraded my system over the past year so the total cost I've spent on it is a lot more than what it could currently be value at.

But I get exactly what I want

Less money for an equivalent pc.

I *probably* spent less than I would have if I bought an equivalent machine pre-built, but I did spend more money on the case, RGB fan, etc. than I would in a pre-built machine.

I may have spent less but would have gotten less performance as well.

No because budget isnt a huge concern, but it's not unlimited either. I pick out the best quality for what I need and It costs what it costs. It would be the same picking out a pre-built. For example, I spend 2-3k on laptops as well.

I was able to build without a GPU and use it like that until I saved for a GPU so my spending was spread out.

Unsure of final total, but significantly better performance for price than off-the-shelf units in rough price bracket.

For same level of performance, no.

Tough to say - considering upgrades, it's definitely a yes.

I used some parts from my old PC so I saved a lot of money that way. PSU & CPU cooler specifically. No sense in buying brand new ones if they still work perfectly!

Back of the net!

the form factor allows for progressive upgrades through the generation

I would upgrade either, but auld built has better value

200 quid cheaper

Fully watercooled

I probably did, yeah. Would have been easier to just buy one that'd be "good enough" for cheaper, but while building it's easy to say "well if I just get this component that's slightly better..."

I set my budget at \$1000 including peripherals, had I ordered something I probably would have stuck with that budget. but as I saw what a little more money would gain me in terms of longevity or performance, I increased my budget.

Spent more because I could get MUCH better performance for a little more money

High quality psu and custom water cooling.

More because the rotation of components rather than the total price of the final system.

Better specs and reliability

I overspent because of RGB LEDs

Definitely cheaper to build on my own, not even comparable.

No comment

Only very slightly but I also get warranty for free in case anything breaks.

Pre-builts always cost more than their components. Major benefit of building. Any indication otherwise is poor shopping around.

Not for the performance I wanted

i also got more gaming power for the price

I spent more money to get more performance per dollar and to get exactly what I wanted without compromising.

I've gone well beyond what I originally anticipated for the build. Originally wanted to spend below \$1100 on my entire setup. I think my setup is worth nearly \$2000 now (upgraded to a GTX 1070 and bought an LG 34UC88).

Custom water cooling for aesthetics

It depends as it pretty much equals out after updating pieces over time

If I bought a workstation pre-built, it would have been literal thousands of dollars more expensive.

Was gonna get a 750\$ laptop, built a 1500\$ system instead.

Does this mean for the same parts? If so no as mine would have been cheaper.

Saves 20-30% off comparable preconfig.

I estimate that I saved over \$1200 USD by building my PC.

Originally purchased dual SSHD in Raid 0 for speed. Cost more than a conventional SSD + HDD combo, and I ended up replacing the drives after I started to see issues.

Didn't care it was more expensive, wanted to do it.

That's a hard question to answer. I have many PCs and have been building/ upgrading for years.

Difficult to say, as I never considered getting something off the shelf in the first place. I wanted to build it myself. I saved money on parts for sure, but I probably spent more overall because I have now upgraded it and built a second PC from the old parts.

System I built costs ~1100 USD, in store would have been 2k+

I bought top of the line components at the time, but over the period of several months, until all of the components were gathered.

I've never thought of it, I just really wanted something I thought would suit what I wanted and could call my own work

My current PC started out as an off-the-shelf, but it's become a frankenstein over time, so it's hard to judge comparative price

Yes, because I know the specs of all of my components and that directly relates to how much flexibility I have in further building my computer

An off the shelf one of equal spec would have been hundreds of dollars more

I don't know, there aren't many good prebuilts so the best I can find is just by gradually upgrading, especially with my low budget

Yes. My original budget was \$650 but by the time I was ready to build I had acquired more money and raised my budget to \$830.

I probably would never spend more than a few hundred on an off-the-shelf solution. Anything above that and it becomes cheaper to build a PC than buy one for the same parts.

I'm willing to spend more if I feel the value is higher

It's slightly like an addiction - once you start it's difficult to stop again (just sold my perfectly fine 1070 Strix to get a 1080ti)

Feces

I beefed up my computer with more cooling, RAM and disk space to support running a host and numerous VMs.

I ended up spending more because it allowed me to buy premium products that pre built computers don't offer.

It was roughly \$500 cheaper

I could optimize better this way, so I was willing to spend a bit more.

No off the shelf config matched what I wanted; PCs with similar specs to the one I built were more expensive.

The reason I spent more was because I bought some extra things, for example, a custom case, fancy keyboard, etc.

I had a set budget, so it was either build it or buy it, and building it gave me a better PC

If by this you mean, "if you had gone out and bought a computer, would you have spent less than you did on the build" then yeah - I probably spent more because of buying it in pieces, but the result is better than if I had spent that much on a pre-built.

You need fast computers for porn

With pre-build of the same parts it wouldn't be the same, and it would cost more.

Yes, but dollar for dollar there's way more value in the quality of parts.

Initially I did, but my upgrades cost me less than they otherwise would have.

I didn't bother with pricing out OEM models

Extra components added compared to pre-built closed the gap in savings. I still spent a few hundred less than what a comparable machine would have cost.

Much less! I bought some second-hand parts and saved like 20% of the grand total

Researching and learning components and builds

I never really looked up an off the shelf model with the same specs

I'm not sure just how much I would have forked over for a pre-built system, but I was confident in building my own so I knew EXACTLY what I was buying and putting together.

With pre-built computers, you don't always get the documentation as easily and that has been proven to be an issue for many users.

Stuck to my budget

Much cheaper than off the shelf

I may have purchased something cheaper off the shelf, but it would have been very hard to get the same performance for the price. I would have ended up lowering the bar on performance for price reasons if I hadn't built it myself.

The cost of the construction of a build isn't simple, as parts are replaced or upgraded over time. After 2 or 3 years, the computer I have has no parts from the computer it started off as, even though it has never been outright replaced.

Original cost was lower than a pre-built system. However I have probably spent more than that adding more parts and upgrading existing parts.

Most parts were bought on sale.

Who can tell the what ifs?

GTX 980Ti was expensive compared to buying a console.

I probably spent more, but I did not get anything I did not need, or would have been superfluous. Worth it.

It was actually cheaper to self build for my applications.

Several hundred dollars less, actually.

I spent 1200\$ on mine which in some cases is cheaper than pre-builts.

Not for the performance and components

Can't buy a system this nice off the shelf.

I would say yes but only time-wise. It has been a learning experience and I expect that in my future builds it would end up less time-consuming and (maybe) I can be more patient in waiting for good deals

Saved around \$500-\$600

First PC and happy

You get more out of it when you do the build yourself, even though you are putting time & work into it

More = Better in this case

I couldn't afford to buy an off-the-shelf machine with the specs of my self-build machine.

Building it myself was a strenuous learning process but was very rewarding

But I have my own, unique, dream system

I feel the spec I put together would have been a silly amount of money. Plus you have the luxury of getting parts piecemeal

I would not spend an equal amount on an off the shelf due to it being considerably weaker

An off the shelf rig with my specs would cost significantly more, however if I were to buy something off the shelf it would likely be a lower end cheaper model and not for my daily use.

Better specs for little more cost

Total cost was 1600\$, so I saved atleast 400\$ if I were to buy the same computer already built

Depends. I would usually pay more to have the exact specifications I want, but buying the parts separately, through sales/coupons, usually comes out cheaper than if all were bought in one off-the-shelf package.

Due to upgrading and possibility of customisation

If you are asking if I saved money building vs buying a machine with equivalent specs then

YES. If I spent more money in total than a standard off the shelf build then YES

Yes, but only because the prices of high-end prebuilts skyrocket with more expensive parts.

With a prebuilt, I would have settled for much worse parts because I wouldn't have been willing to pay for such overpriced high-end parts.

I wouldn't upgrade a stock computer but my current rig has many years of progressive upgrades.

would have upgraded a shelf bought pc anyway

Cost was probably comparable, but i ended up with what i feel is a better product that I can maintain myself and upgrade whenever I choose, with minimal effort.

This is a maybe but a probable yes. I never looked at any off-the-shelf computers before I built my current one so I'm not sure where I would've drawn the line but I did go about 100 dollars over my initial budget which I don't think I would've done if I had bought off-the-shelf. The fact that I could get exactly the computer I wanted when I built it made me more willing to go over budget.

Spent more specifically to get higher performance at a better "rate".

Over time, I've added little bits and pieces.

Not nearly as much

Thanks, Sam!

Was worth.

<make sure to note that pc part picker is amazing>

I spent ~\$700 for mine, but it's much better than all the \$600 builds I saw

Upgraded over time.

Full water cooling

I would not have bought an off-the-shelf configuration, though if I did it would have cost more.

Don't really know. Probably cheaper but I spent a lot on good parts so it was still expensive.

I think custom systems always get you more performance for the cost of similar parts in a pre built system .

Performance was ~4.5 times better

I would buy an off the shelf durable business laptop for about twice the price of my self built desktop

If a similar prebuilt option were available it would almost certainly cost more

Probably would have spent more upfront, but not as much over the years as I slowly upgrade and change my PC to fit my liking

Never checked

Minimum requirements can be met by paying less, but often the cost of enthusiast / first adoption can result in higher dollar amounts. Off the shelf often not for enthusiast Users.

You might spend more for the same performance up front, but when you make upgrades in the future, it saves money. Also, you might get the same performance from another part, but the part you use is the one that YOU choose.

I spent a budget build of 600, but got waaaaaay better performance than a company build from a store bought system

My PC is perfect for my needs, and is pretty price effective. But I did lose out on built in wifi and Bluetooth.

Off-the-shelf gaming machines are often overpriced.

I was lucky enough to get decent 4th gen i7 from work with 32 GB RAM from work.

Probably wouldn't have bought an equivalent system off the shelf

Off-the-shelf configurations would have been quicker but more expensive

Yes and no. I went in with a budget that I massively overshot, but by total choice. If I had went pre-made with my budget, I would have had a pretty trash computer. So while I spent more than I planned on the custom system, it was planned out and gave me huge performance boosts.

All about having the best of the best.

Yes I spend more, but I get more value per dollar/performance per dollar

i can upgrade instead of buying a whole new system

That is one of the driving factors. Price is lower for a self built.

Definitely spent less and was flexible to change/adapt to many different parts

Approximately how long did it take you to build your PC?

2 hours

3 hours

4 hours

1 hour

5 hours

1 day

6 hours

2-3 hours

2 days

A few hours

2 Hours

2 hours

3 Hours

3-4 hours

1-2 hours

8 hours

2 hrs

1.5 hours

4 Hours

1 week

3 hours

30 minutes

A day

2 weeks

1 month

2h

Two hours

Few hours

45 minutes

4 hours

2.5 hours

2hrs

An hour

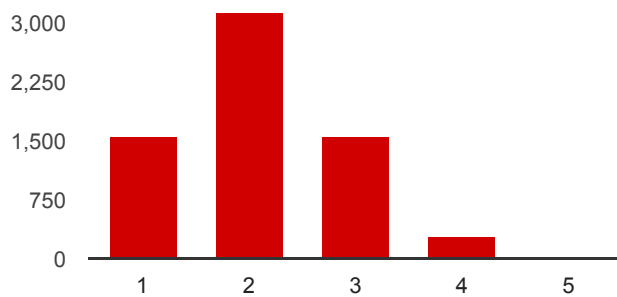
a few hours

4 hrs

2 months
2
10 hours
6 months
1 Hour
3 days
3 months
An afternoon
4-5 hours
Couple hours
few hours
5 hours
4h
3 hrs
A couple hours
5h
About an hour
3hrs
1 hr
7 hours
12 hours
4hrs
3h
1h
1 hour
20 minutes
3 weeks
1hr
About 2 hours
90 minutes
~3 hours
About 3 hours
One hour
2-3 Hours
an hour
couple hours
One day
3
5 hrs
60 minutes
~4 hours

- 1 year
- 4 months
- 1hour
- 1 Day
- 6 Hours
- 30 mins
- 2-4 hours
- 5
- A few hours.
- 4-6 hours
- 1-2 Hours
- 2 to 3 hours
- 8 Hours
- 3 to 4 hours
- Four hours
- 9 hours
- 3-4 Hours
- 2 days
- 3 hours.
- 4
- 2hr
- 1-2h
- 3-5 hours
- About 4 hours
- 1day
- A couple of hours
- 6 hrs
- 1 afternoon
- Other

How difficult did you find the build process?



Not difficult at all: 1 **1557** 23.8%

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------|
| 2 | 3141 | 47.9% |
| 3 | 1567 | 23.9% |
| 4 | 275 | 4.2% |
| Very difficult : 5 | 14 | 0.2% |

Comments

One of the parts was defective

Depends on the form factor and cooling solution ie: custom loop.

Had software issues with GPU at first.

IO shield install is hard, same with hyper 212 evo, and front panel headers

Cable management is hell

Cable management made it rating 2

It was more difficult than expected

I worked as a PC technician before putting my own together, so I'd built several already

Motherboard had no installation documentation and required more than screw and plug in

Saw alot of youtube video's and took it slow the first time, it was quite easy except for that

f**** front io connectors :P

Stressful, but not difficult

PCPartPicker helps a lot. researching everything to try and optimize took some effort

Putting the parts together was mostly easy, but had some troubles with motherboard standoffs and cable management due to cheaping out on the case.

I was a noob at the time.

Takes a bit of time and patience, along with a gentle touch

First time liquid cooling installation increased difficulty

I had a friend help, but he ended up doing nothing other than reassuring

First build so it was time consuming and stressful

Watched some youtube videos

My build is pretty straight forward. No custom water cooling or fabricating custom brackets.

Took my time and everything went together smoothly.

Many parts lacked adequate documentation cause I got the cheapest on the wall of almost everything

Custom watercooling in an mitx case

I did a mini ITX build. Craming everything in a tiny case was more difficult than a regular ATX build

Most builds for me are a 1- I help friends and family build custom PCs all the time (4 so far this year) Reason I said 3 was because it had a custom hard-tube acrylic water cooling loop that was a little bit of a nightmare to get going (also why it took a month)

<http://imgur.com/gallery/8yy1W>

The cooler was a little bit difficult, didn't want to accidently hurt the CPU. Cable management took time but was relatively easy.

Hardest part is cable management

CPU cooler was hard

Was very scared to apply the amount of force required to assemble RAM to MoBo.

Somewhat tricky getting pieces to fit correctly

First time build. 2nd build was far easier

Cable management to me is the most difficult.

Putting a PC together is a pretty foolproof process.

First time building, took it slow to not make a mistake.

Proper cable management can be challenging. If you don't care how it looks, the process is significantly quicker.

HyperX 212 Evo is stupidly difficult, but overall it was easy.

It was mostly very easy, occasionally there would be a fiddly power cable to plug in but that was more because of the small size of my case

My friend who built his own helped me

There is always something more to learn, but the overall process is pretty basic.

There's always something that flares up on the way but it's relieving when you figure it out.

My build was more challenging than usual because it's a mini it's with quite a tight fit for a few parts.

Cable management be fidly

Was my first time building but still found it relatively easy with help from an experienced builder

Good looking cable management was the trickiest part

I built many computers over the years

I gave it a 3 since it was my first time building a computer by myself. If I was to do it again, I'd give it a 1.

Cable management sucks.

Some troubleshooting, nothing major.

Been going it for 25 years

Case was funky and got much quicker after the first time to put it together

CPU installation was the hardest part

First time

After watching a friend do theirs, it was pretty straight forward, hiding all the wires is easily the most demanding portion of the build.

The only tricky part was the cable management and cooler fitting process

It is like legos except with very expensive parts. Also, difficulty depends on parts, as in , watercooling, cable management.

Don't buy an EVO 212!

This was the first build where I swapped out the stock case fans with quieter after-market ones so it took a bit of extra effort.

First build and was mini itx so it was a bitch with my sausage fingers.

CPU cooler was a pain took a few attempts

small computer, big hands

The "difficult" part was just getting the cables the way I wanted them. Installation is a breeze.

Some parts were simple, wiring and learning what to plug in where was most difficult and time consuming.

Cabling and such making sure it looks neat in general is probably the hardest part.

Had some problems with the motherboard. Manual was out of date.

The build wasn't difficult so much as it was tedious in places.

Takes a bit longer the first time.

I can't imagine how difficult custom liquid cooling would have been I would imagine it would have taken 3 weeks instead of 3 days, I used close loops

Mooo

it was my first time

Proper research helped a lot; tutorial videos, etc.

My current build is my twentieth or so.

The worst (and best) bit of it was picking out parts

Not first build, but challenging configuration and OC process

It's been a work in progress with constant upgrades for years now.

without watercooling (2)

Not difficult at until attempting cable management.

Cable management was the only thing I had to think ahead for and plan the build process around.

proper cable and air flow management were the most time consuming parts

I read every manual, and saw a 30 minute YouTube video of the building process and what to have in mind

Difficult b/c on my case there was 2 headers on the motherboard that were really difficult to get to, and there was a bit of confusion on my side trying to install the power supply.

if all goes right on the first try, i'd give it a 1. When something goes wrong, the troubleshooting process is frustrating, scary (lots of money involved) and complex

Had trouble installing the OS because it was a special version of Windows

Just expensive lego blocks

Only difficulty was installing the lovely intel cpu cooler

its somewhat tedious when you upgrade the cpu fan later on

Pcpartpicker and buildhelp forums!

It's not a basic scale. If you are building an ITX format, size can increase an otherwise not difficult process.

I've done a few. The hardest part is wiring the MB to the case.

Water cooling took some time

Watercolors man.

Being honest it is not as hard as it looks, but may be difficult for someone who didn't do his research correctly. I believe this varies on the person's capability of understanding and comprehension

First time doing water cooled...

My case was missing some screws, with it being my first time that confused and complicated things

Everything went smoothly except for the back plate in the motherboard proved to be very tricky to install.

I have been doing this for a while

First time. It got easier after that and took less time.

As with anything practice makes perfect. The first build will always be more difficult but over time the process becomes trivial.

As long as you read your manuals, and do a little research, shouldn't be too difficult. Ran into my own bit of problems, but once I got everything squared away, I was all set.

got easier as i built more

It would have been trivially easy if it weren't for the EVO212 HSF which was a pain in the arse.

I built a mini-ITX PC and the cable management was not easy because I was using my old non-modular Seasonic power supply. It took a bit of time to get everything neat as I like it.

Ez

Most things were quite simple but I mad a couple of silly mistakes which made the build take a little longer.

Depends on the case and quality of components.

It was my first build, lots of learning was done

I had help.

It would be 1, but damn cable management.....

watercooled so more difficult

I've built like 10 computers already so I'm quite familiar; there's still a lot of details to get right though, and every case / cable management is different

I can't really say, I did run into a few problems, but they were easily fixed. I'm deciding to stay neutral on this one, as it is quite easy. But as a first time builder there are some easy mistakes to make.

Like most people, the only issues I had were simple checklist mistakes.

Screws and un-finished edges cut you easily

No prior knowledge of PC building or PC components. Hardest part was finding pieces that were compatible with one another.

I'm comfortable building computers but I prefer small builds which makes things a little more difficult.

Hardest part was socketing the CPU by far.

Hardest part was setting up the AIO liquid cooler.

cable management is a bitch

I ran into a few unexpected issues during the software install process but otherwise following online tutorials pretty much guided me through it

I intentionally went for a compact mITX build. Desired the challenge, and it was challenging.

Just because it was a first time thing.

You just gotta know where to put what and be cautious. Not rocket science.

Flow direction on 2 fans unclear, had to re-seat :)

First time builder so there are definitely things I know for next time

Water cooling on first build not recommended.

Needed somebody to hold the sidepanel since the screws pushed away the fan on it.

The process itself wasn't difficult once I understood what component did what. Understanding what I was bying was the hardest part.

My last build was a microITX, so that made things harder.

I've been building PC's since I was 12

computers are easy to build from off the shelf parts, if you remember order all the parts you need.

Does the build process include dealing with the software part?

Cable management is the hardest part

ran into errors had to fix

Cable management was the hardest part

I could do it again but haven't since 2014 so it'd take me a bit to remember. There were instructions so it wouldn't take long.

Would have been more difficult without previous experience

Had to adjust RAM to accommodate CPU cooler.

First build required guides and trial and error, would rate 5

The first time is hard

It was pretty easy, but I went really slowly because of it being my first time.

Cpu cooler was the hardest for me. Took me some time to rearrange and hide wires too.

Not too difficult, just taking attention to instructions and time and patience

Windows 10 tried to duplicate the OS so I had to delete all the files to reinstall the OS

Had minor driver issues with video card

Just scary. Didn't want to break anything

The hardest part was configuring the bios to install Windows for an NVMe drive

Needed a second pair of hands to install the cooler and was wary of the CPU installation, very easy otherwise.

I have built dozens of PCs

Building in itself is easy. Hard part comes if something goes wrong.

It gets easier with practice

It's gotten easier over time. As it's been said before, building a computer is as easy as matching the connector to the port. Picking the parts and ensuring compatibility is by far the more difficult part of the process.

Saving up was the hardest part

my case didn't have enough standoff screws, so most of my time spent building was spent wondering how to place the motherboard safely.

It was only difficult because I had never done it before and I was not sure how everything went together. I watched several videos but watching and doing are two totally different things. I also had a problem with getting cords plugged into tight spaces. something I did not see happening.

Putting the front panel connectors in the correct orientation was annoying with my fat fingers lol, that's the only thing that gave me any trouble, but even then it only took a few minutes.

Jurassic Park!

Was a Node 202. Mini ITX cases are tricky.

I had help from friends

First time was a little confusing until i got everything in the case ready to be hooked up

The building process is quite easy. It's the layout of how I wanted it to look like.

My hands are huge and could not screw in the mother board correctly, had to have a friend do it

cable length issues lol

The initial build was fine but more recent modifications were like a scalpel to the taint

I kept visual aesthetics in mind so getting to the end result was more challenging

For the very first time it was difficult but after the first build every build thereafter was easy as pie.

Involving many tools for drilling, cutting sections out of a case etc as well as creating custom reservoir. For a normal PC i'd rate 2.

Spent time on wire management.

Build was not difficult, troubleshooting unknown problems was difficult the first time

I thought I was missing a cable but it turned out I was fucking blind.

PCPartPicker

It was my first time so I wanted to make sure i did everything exactly right.

You can throw together a build in about 90 minutes. But it takes longer if you want to do it right.

Cable management is a bitch

Hyper Evo cpu cooler was pain in the ass

Again depending on challenges. Most of the time quick and easy.

Had built a few before. Was easy due to experience.

Cost was biggest problem

Not difficult with pc part picker assistance

I have an IT and electrical background. Found it quite easy.

I've built many PCs

Troubleshooting was difficult

Getting the heatsink pump seated and radiator installed took a little extra effort, otherwise I would rate 1 (not difficult at all)

Note to self: Don't touch the pins!

The hardest part was plugging in the Graphics Card

Some basic knowledge to know beforehand makes it much easier to build

It was easy just tedious

Defective ram took me awhile to diagnose.

Had help

Most of the difficulty is being scared you will break something, with some experience in handling the parts, it should all be much simpler. I look forward to my next build.

No comment

1st time was a 5, 2nd time was a 4 and 3rd time was 3 (hence my current score)

My first computer was soldered together - had 1Kb addressable memory. Contemporary building really is just Lego in comparison.

Cable Management takes time

Useful cable management is the only hard part

Been doing it a long time it's not difficult

It takes some dedication to get to the point of being ready, but the final process is relatively simple.

First is always the most difficult

The most difficult part was troubleshooting it during the initial run.

sometimes things don't start good

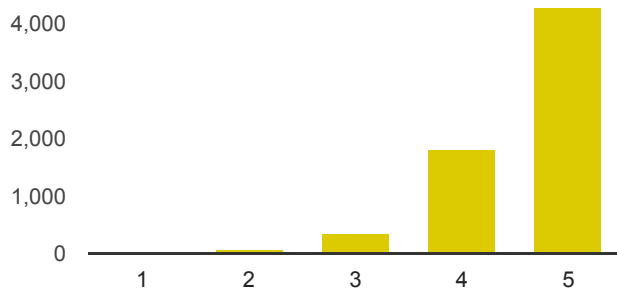
Screwing in the motherboard and installing drivers were the hardest parts

It wasn't my first system, so I knew what to watch out for and all went down without any hiccups.

Methodical and slow, to make sure everything was ok.

CM evo 212 cooler was the hardest component to install.

Did you enjoy the build process?



| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Not enjoyable at all: 1 | 21 | 0.3% |
| 2 | 70 | 1.1% |
| 3 | 339 | 5.2% |
| 4 | 1815 | 27.8% |
| Very enjoyable : 5 | 4289 | 65.6% |

Comments

I enjoyed it at first but not as it became more difficult

Fun to assemble your very own PC

miniITX enclosures are a pain, worthwhile pain though

.

It was very fun

Is really fun up until you hit a snag, then its not enjoyable at all until you figure out the problem!

Scary, but very enjoyable too

It's now a full-time hobby!

I love to build, it's so satisfying to look at the end product!

Learning how to build a PC was useful and helps me upgrade parts on my own without getting help from any paid tech support

Stressful in some spots. CPU cooler was sketchy because I didn't want to damage CPU

Satisfying but stressful

Wish I could do it for a living!

Not really, I'm allergic to dust and I also hate screws.

Even though it was tough it was more fun than going out and buying a prebuilt

It soothes me.

Anxiety of it not working at the end is a bitch

Mostly because I was stressed. First time building, nobody wants to fry their components.

The whole process was a learning experience. The excitement when it actually posted was definitely worth time invested.

I found it very tiring and stressful, albeit being simple.

I had to do some steps in a hacky way but overall it worked.

Even had my younger brother help as a learning process

Moooooooooooo

It's like LEGOs. Everyone likes LEGOs, except monsters.

Besides my palms sweating while holding a \$300 CPU, yes.

Learned a lot and can't wait to do it again now that I know how to do it.

I was scared of messing up

Loved every single step <3

Not 'enjoyable' I'd say, but satisfying.

It's friggin' awesome to build something and the end result is so beautiful.

Building a brand new system brings a certain amount of excitement with it.

Building was a blast. Only part that sucks is when parts need to be added, or replaced. Then taking it a part becomes a choir. Have my cable management and everything, so taking apart after having my system in place is a bit of a hassle.

Yup

I found it challenging but when it worked it was all worth it.

Depends on the case and quality of components.

Knowledge is power

Meh

Aside from trying to troubleshoot which part came DOA

Was a great feeling that I accomplished something I thought I couldn't do before!

I love building.

I agree that it's not for everyone but I absolutely love to take apart and put together PCs.

It is playing with legos, not rocket science

Despite the problems it was one of the most fun computer related experiences of my life

Stress of expensive parts

Definitely!

It was extremely stressful to be honest. Handling parts worth hundreds of dollars makes me nervous.

it is all fun and games till you try to do cable management the system has been tested.

It connects you with it quite a bit

frustrating errors

Very fun to do. You realize you are making something for yourself of someone else and feel very accomplished afterwards. I'd love to do it again when I can.

Its my zen

You will feel sick to your stomach from nerves when building as it costs so much

It started out super enjoyable, but cable management not going as well as I had hoped started to get me down / after a while I just wanted it to be built already.

I had wanted to do it for many years, glad I did it.

Building is the best part.

Apart from the terrifying thought of messing up and bricking an expensive component

Anxiety

it's whatever

It was challenging but very enjoyable

Felt very satisfying piecing it all together

Moose from a bowl is very nice but to put it on a person is just demented!

not as fun as most people made it out to be

See above answer

Sometimes it can be frustrating if something doesn't go as planned

8/8 great bait mate

Def enjoyed.

No comment

Besides cable management, that is. Always buy a modular PSU, kids!

Occasional setbacks can be annoying, as with any complex system. Easy to diagnose errors with contemporary components, though.

Always enjoyable putting together a new PC

i am a lego gamer

Some parts are stressfully doing for the first time such as installing the CPU or putting on the CPU cooler.

would be 5 except for the worry it wouldn't work in the end

I feel confident that I can build another computer faster now that I know what goes where.

it was scary

Building it and booting it up for the first time was incredible

No 5, it was done too quick :(

assembly took a little longer than I wanted

Satisfaction in getting exactly what I wanted, and saving \$\$

Hardware is pretty simple, software is always a pain.

I've built 4 PCs and I love the fact that I learn something new everytime.

I would if all the parts had worked first time

I SOLD MY 1ST BUILD TO BUILD ANOTHER ONE... I THEN GOT A NEW CASE JUST TO MOVE THINGS OVER (ITS ADDICTING)

Quite entertaining, sometimes frustrating.

Enjoyable to see it come to life, but bloody stressful at times; e.g. installing the CPU

It's like legos!

Except for the incompatibility issue

Would rate 5 but the first round of building my PC led to my power supply frying my motherboard after about 10 minutes of gaming. It was a crushing blow, but she's up and running now!

Cable management...

This was my first time building a PC from nothing, and I was very proud of myself for it.

Maybe only one thing annoyed me and that was the IO shield. f that thing

All accept CPU cooler installation

It's a bit of a fight some times but when you finally load it up and see it works perfectly, it's the best feeling i have ever felt

I would've enjoyed it more if the Evo 212s heatsink hadn't given me so much trouble

Dong

Apart from cable management

It's relaxing and allows for creativity.

i work in IT, replaced parts, but never a full build.

I get the itch to build a new one about once every 3 to 4 years

If I didn't enjoy it, I wouldn't do it for any of my friends/family.

That first successful post is a wonderful feeling.

Fun at first, then frustrating until I figured things out.

up until problems occurred

Like adult Lego - but with bonus PC at end

It's always better with whiskey

I forgot to install the i/o plate

Better cable management in my case would have made the process more enjoyable.

I loved every minute of the investments made toward this system.

I was scared i was gonna break something.

I learned A LOT. Much more confident for subsequent builds.

Can be frustrating because of poorly made choices on the manufacture's part (awkward power plug placement being among the most common).

It was very tasty beer

Have built several, even for friends and family

I love building PC's.

I was frustrated but the pride felt after completion was worthwhile. Otherwise my answer to this would be more of a 3.

Depends on the build.

I probably enjoyed the part selection & speccing process more than the actual build!

The motherboard screws had been forgotten in the package, so it took far longer than needed.

<333333333333

It is very rewarding.

Extremely hard and felt like giving up because of technical issues but I do like building

Even though it took some time it was great fun and I think I can cut the time in half next time since then i know what im doing

Small frustrations but fantastic experience

Again, placing screws and wires in very tight places can be laborious.

Stressful, but a good stressful.

Was drunk

Frustrations aside, it's all good fun.

Thank, Sammy

cabling is usually annoying

It's a ton of fun. I even build computers for friends for free just because i enjoy it.

Little mistakes such as putting the ram stick in the wrong slot sorta pissed me

Little bit stressful.

I sexually Identify as an Attack Helicopter. Ever since I was a boy I dreamed of soaring over the oilfields dropping hot sticky loads on disgusting foreigners. People say to me that a person being a helicopter is Impossible and I'm fucking retarded but I don't care, I'm beautiful. I'm having a plastic surgeon install rotary blades, 30 mm cannons and AMG-114 Hellfire missiles on my body. From now on I want you guys to call me "Apache" and respect my right to kill from above and kill needlessly. If you can't accept me you're a heliphobe and need to check your vehicle privilege. Thank you for being so understanding.

Motherboards are tedious

Unless you forget the motherboard backplate!

Besides screws falling into unknown black holes, it was a ton of fun and want to build another computer just for fun!

When everything finally worked it was fun to put together

Lot of stress

Building a unique system is more rewarding. Im just indecisive and dont like to spend

I learned a lot and earned a sense of fulfillment from the experience.

Aside from stabbing myself on the I/O shield's pins a bunch, it was a tonne of fun

It was like a puzzle, somewhat frustrating and sometimes nerve-wracking, but overall enjoyable and gave a sense of satisfaction.

Aside from the difficulty plugging in the 24 pin connector everything else was enjoyable.

Lego

Get to know all components of system and what they do.

The stock cables came with the PSU is hard to bend/fit

Enjoyment fell due to being stressed about possibly making an error.

It's so much fun building your own machine after buying all the stuff.

Very satisfying to see it running

Pretty much

Aforementioned CPU fan christened it with blood. It's a block of razors.

it's relaxation for me.

An extremely rewarding and satisfying experience.

I had so much fun building it. I can't wait to do it again..

It was like a very expensive puzzle except now I use it every day. Very satisfying.

Motherboard was DoA

Stressful first time. Would enjoy more the next time

Had some issues installing Windows to the M.2 drive.

They suck

Mistakes lead to frustration, but the end result is worth it.

I enjoyed it, but the anxiety of ruining expensive parts made me more stressed than I would be now.

Learning about the parts and what they do.

I enjoy to build everything similar to computers.

It was a very rewarding feeling to see the computer start up for the first time

Its fun, but it can get frustrating at times

Burrito

Old case and components, newer are easier to work with

Was such a satisfying feeling to see it growing

Uh-huh

I built my first one when I was a teenager. I learned a lot from building one, it's a very simple and fun process.

Very rewarding once I got it up and running!

I have offered to build/help pick out parts for friends and family. Am a go to tech in the family now.

I have taken it apart multiple times, to redo the cable management.

First time start up was the most fun.

its something i can be proud of in life

some minor hiccups

I enjoy it so much I'm attempting to make a career out of it.

its basically like an expensive Lego set.

Everything was cool except the cables

Except when I didn't, lmao

Frustrating at times... mini itx...

I enjoy the research that goes along with buying parts for a build more than the build itself.

Even though I am now familiar with the process there is always a little frustration involved with routing wires, looking for screws and tools, and fitting components into tight spaces.

you learn a lot and the more you do it the quicker you become

Over 15 years it becomes a process, the enjoyment is knowing you have a good computer sitting there for you or a friend.

-1 for nerve racking

Even when you spend hours troubleshooting, nothing much beats the relief of getting it booting clean.

Would have been very enjoyable if I haven't built it during summer.

Had problems with my PSU (cracking noises and such). Generally i was scared of destroying any of my parts, or even them all at once. If you're like me, and not used to work with electronics, it really scares you when you're building with parts that costed you aprox. 1600

dollars, and you have no idea if any of them are defected from the merchant, or if you did it yourself.

I've built a number of systems. It is just a hassle now, especially dealing with a wc loop.

Clicking your expensive lego kit together is fun, man.

I spent at least two hours every day learning about the parts and the process, for about a month. If I knew I could earn a decent living building computers, I would probably do it.

Little scary

I really love when I install thing and it works. I don't really enjoy when they fail, but only when it's my PC. If not then I enjoy the troubleshooting.

It was more difficult than I expected it to be.

Enjoyed the challenge and limitations that the node 202 has to offer.

Intel stock CPU cooler... awful installation step

Always do! Unless there is a problem after assembly :)

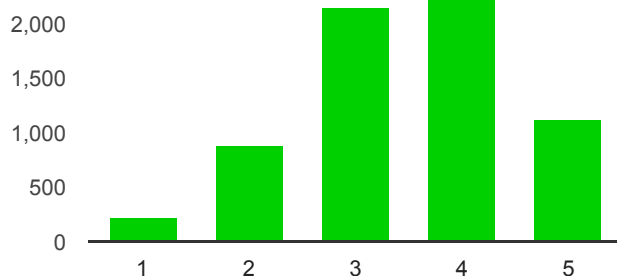
When it's smooth, it's great.

Best part of getting a new computer is building it.

Building my computer made it my own creation.

One of my favorite things to do.

Before buying your custom PC, how would you rate your skill level with computers/electronics?



| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Basic - low skill: 1 | 215 | 3.2% |
| 2 | 874 | 13.2% |
| 3 | 2158 | 32.5% |
| 4 | 2261 | 34.1% |
| Advanced - high skill: 5 | 1130 | 17% |

Comments

I'm not that knowledgeable about computers, that's why I used the custom company.

I never built one before but i researched a lot

My first build was an XT 4mhz 8088

I've been building/repairing computers for nearly 30 years.

I knew how to use a computer. That's it.

This was my first build and had no problems.

Programmer, hardware enthusiast. I work in computer security.

5th complete build with a few major upgrades over the last 20 years.

Building a PC does not increase your electronics skill. You don't have to know how a PC works to build one. (or use any technology for that matter)

No experience with hardware but great with software.

I knew my way around an operating system fine and knew a bit about the core parts of a PC such as CPU and PSU but a bios and how to connect the parts were alien to me.

I was 14, and knew just enough to get myself in trouble.

I researched computer parts and how to build with them but never had any personal hands on experience

I touch computers since i'm 3.

I had built a PC before, but experience was limited

Should be more specific with this question. I felt I was more knowledgeable than most people around me regarding how to use an OS and different tips/tricks with commonly used programs, but my knowledge with physical components and how to assess performance from various parts was severely lacking. At a much younger age (around 2005), I always assumed there was a linearity with price/performance and paying for the \$200+ upgrade for a 0.1-0.2GHz increase in CPU clock speed would mean you would see a reasonable gain. Most notably Apple and Dell had some of the most egregious upgrade costs in their configurator.

First time was a rating of 3, after that, a rating of 5. You learn a lot on the first build.

Varies, I mean the hardware side I was pretty new. But I learned fast!

I'm good at high level programming languages like java but suck at electronics so any hardware issue I would have to just rma rather than spend hours with a multimeter

I've learned a lot in the process.

College major just working with PC's but I have been messing with components way before college.

Way back when I built my first, I had some experience due to my father being interested in building them as well.

IT Specialist

Operating them would be a 5, going into the hardware etc. more of a 2

I'd tinkered with computers for years and could change a video card, but I was very intimidated by the idea of building from scratch.

Certified PC Technician and have and half my job is IT work

First computer build, but youtube made it easy.

Cowww moooo

Do you mean before buying my first custom PC?

I know my stuff, but if you want to go into electronics and how it all works then I'm not the guy, the most I understand is over clocking. I understand jargon and how it's applied.

General knowledge on parts and good in system troubleshooting. Can only replace parts, not fix them.

No skill, read reddit build a pc's guide multiple times.

Definitely basic, I'm first time builder but I've learned A LOT these last 2 months and I believe I can take a step to the next level. Gonna make new builds in a future

Even working around PC's everyday, you learn something new. I knew a good deal about computers already, but thanks to many others, I got a little bit more insight on what to look for on specific systems.

3 times Certified Tech

Google makes u smart

Very basic before I started reasearching.

Electrical and software engineer

I grew up with computers, am an electrical engineer, and used to help out in my dad's computer shop. So pretty familiar.

3-4 honestly

I've been building for about 2 decades.

I knew next to nothing about building computers prior to building my own.

I've built a few custom PCs.

I have made many upgrades to my main PC over the years, I don't think I have learned much over the past 2 years.

Never built a computer before this. Watched a bunch of youtube videos and read guides to help.

I'm sure everyone in this stupid sub put 5

Probably about average for a young millennial

My computer was built back when I was 13 and I've been upgrading it since.

I had basic computer knowledge but nowhere near enough to build myself a PC for a specific use.

I buy parts, and I do the custom build

I was 10 at the time.

I had tried building a comp before and had to make many mistakes to learn to do it right

I got more into PCs after the build

I can tell you quite a bit about computers. I still have so much room to grow. When I first built my PC I was a one. 3 might seem average and I may know more than 3 but I fell I still have so much to learn.

When I built my first computer in 1998, at that time I would have rated my knowledge a 2.

Built dozens of systems.

building a pc is not hard

All I've really done over the years was upgrade my GPU which is really easy. Had no prior experience with the rest of the steps in building a PC.

Smell my cheese you mother!

I've worked with circuitry and electronic repair before, but I am not some expert in the field

I did a lot research for my build, I understand hardware much better because of it.

No comment

3 decades experience with digital systems.

I've been building my own PCs since Windows 95

i knew nothing prior to creating gameing

I'm only 14 so it's kind of capped

I've grown up around building custom computers but I only watched until I was a teenager and built one with my dad. My current build was one that I did all on my own (with the help of reddit and youtube).

I feel I'm very knowledgeable for an amateur, but I'm no expert either.

Bruh these questions are stupidly phrased, none of these questions mean anything without the amount youve built. Stupid oversight

Never done a PC before, but did some smartphone part replacements and vehicles (not tech, but requires similar skill I guess)

I've now built 6-8 systems over 20 years

Basic knowledge of specs before, then learned a lot about hardware right before buying through a new job with computers.

Building desktops is a hobby of mine, so I have build a number of computers and I would consider myself competent with the process / computers in general.

professional builder for PCPartPicker

13 Years in I.T., 1 year of which in corporate I.T.

JUST BROWSED REDDIT, YOUTUBE, & PCPP.COM AND LEARNED HOW TO BUILD IT ON MY OWN

Did some work at college and also helping mates buliding before my own IT professional.

never really did anything more than basic circuit logic, diodes etc at school

I've been building computers since before AGP was standard, let alone PCI-e.

Know enough to build and cable manage but not for water cooling or fancy RGB LEDS

I can't professionally rate how good i am because when i see something i don't know i learn how it works so I can utilise it in the future

Skill level in relation to actual computer use and knowledge. Hardware knowledge was non little to none at that point.

Wank

Not my first build

I know more about software than hardware. With Google to watch my back, I would be 2.5 to 3 on this scale.

Computer Engineer

4.5 maybe

Gotta start somewhere.

No technical certifications, but worked low level IT positions and stay well-read on new tech in the industry.

I did tons of research and I had fallen in love with tech before I built my pc

Basic technology literacy but no post education experience

I once knew a guy that could juggle and whistle the dukes of hazzard tune at the same time, i thought that was amazing. He would hang out at a place called CD Cafe. This was a joint that sold espressos and used CD's. Sometimes he would get this big crowd standing around him, while I was buying my Double espresso with a hint of Hazelnut. He would always have such great composure, unless there was a blonde female watching. When this happened, he would

occasionally drop an orange, and he couldn't get the notes right of the Duke boys song, so he would move on to something easier, and it was usually Sheryl Crow's song, "all I wanna do". Well this one time, I happened to be getting my quick fix of espresso, and I saw this dude doing his routine, I happened to notice there were 2 blondes watching him this time. He put his oranges down, pulled out a pair of Black shiny tap shoes, and tapped the theme to Macgyver right there in the ol caffeine shop. I'll tell you what, that took some advanced-high skill. Those blondes didn't know how to react, so they wondered over to the C-section and bought a used Sheryl Crow CD.

Computer Science Major at my Uni. Just love computers/technology where ever I go.

I'm a software engineer

Never built a system prior, didn't know about form factor and how to sort component compatibilities

I'm not certified in anything IT-related, but I've grown a large interest in building machines over time (I took my first one apart at 13 years-old or so) so I thought I'd take it up when I had the money and finally did 8 years later.

I tinkered a lot growing up and have a computer science background.

I was 14 when I built my first PC and learned how to do it through paper magazines.

I'm much more confident with handling hardware now.

Extremely broad question, but as for my skill in researching parts and deals it's a solid 5

I work in IT

Own to PC / phone / tablet repair shops.

IT manager

Lower skill for actually building computers, higher skill with software (averages to the level 4)

I study EEE

I have contemporaries to approach with problems, and contemporaries who approach me with problems when it comes to computers/electronics.

Bachelor's Degree (After building PC in high school) in Physics with a specialization in database management (SQL)

Confident but this required some very specific knowledge I didnt have or had to learn via Reddit or youtube

I understood how to use a computer and troubleshoot issues to find possible fixes, just didn't know how all the parts go together and how they interact

have built many custom desktops, work in IT for over 10 years

This computer has been updated several times

apprenticeship as it assistant

I do have a 2 year IT degree, and I work in a datacenter as a T2 support tech.

It was probably slightly above average

Thanks, Samuel

What the fuck did you just fucking say about me, you little bitch? I'll have you know I graduated top of my class in the Navy Seals, and I've been involved in numerous secret raids on Al-Quaeda, and I have over 300 confirmed kills. I am trained in gorilla warfare and I'm the top sniper in the entire US armed forces. You are nothing to me but just another target. I will wipe you the fuck out with precision the likes of which has never been seen before on this Earth, mark my fucking words. You think you can get away with saying that shit to me over

the Internet? Think again, fucker. As we speak I am contacting my secret network of spies across the USA and your IP is being traced right now so you better prepare for the storm, maggot. The storm that wipes out the pathetic little thing you call your life. You're fucking dead, kid. I can be anywhere, anytime, and I can kill you in over seven hundred ways, and that's just with my bare hands. Not only am I extensively trained in unarmed combat, but I have access to the entire arsenal of the United States Marine Corps and I will use it to its full extent to wipe your miserable ass off the face of the continent, you little shit. If only you could have known what unholy retribution your little "clever" comment was about to bring down upon you, maybe you would have held your fucking tongue. But you couldn't, you didn't, and now you're paying the price, you goddamn idiot. I will shit fury all over you and you will drown in it. You're fucking dead, kiddo.

I'm an electrical engineer.

I majored in Computer Science in college soooo yeah.

I'd rank myself higher but I don't know some basic electronics-related skills like soldering.

I had researched a bunch but hadn't done a hands on build.

I have multiple certs: A+, Linux, Security+, C++

I certainly learnt a lot leading up to and after doing my first build .

Can't solder but knew enough to research and buy parts without help from other people.

About in between 3 and 4.

Average

See above, used to work in repair shop; am software dev now

Better than my grandmother, worse than Bill Gates.

Med/High theoretical knowledge but limited / no practical experience

I had always used a prebuilt, never installed an operating system.

I work in IT.

IT professional for 5+ years

I understand the role of each components, but not necessarily how they work.

Time is the only reason i didnt build my own.

I've been working on computers for quite some time.

Above average, but not some IT professional

It is my job

Good enough to get by

I had a prefab PC (pentium 75 baby!) and it was so crappy that I refused to have another one

Not a computer scientist but I know the basics.

I've replaced GPUs and minor things like that, but never full builds.

I have used electronics heavily every day for most of my life. While I've studied computer science a bit, this was my first time getting really involved with the hardware.

I had experience with using them, but I really was clueless on the topic of building them or knowing a thing about their components

Acer blows

I have been building PCs for 20+ years. I'm also professional software engineer with a little hardware creation.

I know how to use Google effectively and have rebuilt numerous old PC's and laptops.

Building a custom PC was my first step of the journey.

I've aced both A+ exams. I'd put 5 bucks fiddy if I could

Very good with software, friends helped understand hardware

I've learned how to handle everything with pc.

Had never built before - but had taken my old PC apart many times before for cleaning

Been fixing electronics for years.

I thought I was good at the time, but compared to what I am now, its not that good.

O

Not IT but I know how to google

I'd researched a lot. Hadn't had much of a chance to work with them myself, though.

I would double-check their components, if not everything is listed then it's too shady for me.

i knew computers were 1337 hacking tools and how to play starwars a new hope on cmd

Now I work in IT

I built my first, and last PC prior to this build in 2001, I was thirteen at the time. I had not again attempted this until 2015, and found the process to be easier than it was before. I can blame this on the technology refining, online tutorials expanding, and me being older and understanding the purpose of PC components more.

I have some millennial IT savvy. but I had no idea what it would take to actually build a computer. I watched my brother for most of the first build.

Buying or building? Couldn't answer this since my last prebuilt would be 18 years old now. disassembled and reassembled consoles and controllers.

I can install an OS but can't code worth a Damn.

I knew what each thing did on it's own.

Probably one of the single best learning experiences I have had.

I'm an electrician, also working towards an electrical engineering degree.

Ever since i build my rig, really been into hardware.

I knew how to tinker with their guts already. I diagnostics and testing on servers in college, and built my first computer not long after taking Computer Architecture classes.

Just got my computer science associate's degree

Been repairing computers since the commodore 64

I've installed RAM, video cards, sound cards before. This was my first full build.

I worked before in a OEM restoration shop that resells them to

Didn't know a thing. Went on buildapc.com. I adjusted the parts a bit afterwards but the website gave me the basis.

At the time of my first computer I was 18 and probably a 2-3. I'm now an IT professional.

i know basic stuff

I'd say I have above average knowledge of computers, but nothing fancy really.

I have a pretty good handle of technology, but limited experience with programming and networking components.

I was already the guy whose parents used for every technical issue.

2nd build

Computer-user for +15 years, in the IT field for work/education for +5 years.

Degrees/career in IT, but had not done much with hardware at that point.

As compared to the DIY pc community. I'm a 5 against the general population.

i'm above average, but I don't code or have anything to do with hardware, I just have been a power user for a while now.

I've been doing custom builds for about 15 years.

I had a general idea on the subject, but with research and youtube videos i really learned a whole lot i no longer hear just random numbers when someone is talking about a component

I have an electronics degree, though those skills did not play into building my computer.

I'm very good with software, hardware not as much

I did a lot of research

I'm a physics graduate student and thus work with electronics fairly extensively.

I'm very familiar with computers, took apart older machines and put them back together to see how it all worked when I was young. Not very knowledgeable about electronics as far as soldering and wiring, but its not really involved in PC building unless your doing something very custom.

building a pc is not hard, if you can think logically. It can be compared to Lego, part A looks like it connects to part B.

This is in comparison solely with individuals who are also skilled in computers.

Pursuing PhD in electrical engineering atm.

At the time I was in Secondary School, however I am now a Computer Science undergrad.

Car audio background

CpE Major - more circuit design, electronics, etc than actual PC building.

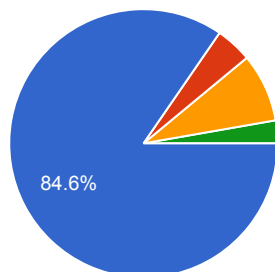
Studying EE right now

Medium on my first build

Knew a few hardware pieces(cpu, gpu, motherboard), but was still woefully unaware of ram speed, and ssd for example.

Not hard

Did you notice a marked difference in performance/experience with the custom system?



| | | |
|-------|-------------|-------|
| Yes | 5586 | 84.6% |
| No | 290 | 4.4% |
| Maybe | 545 | 8.3% |
| Other | 182 | 2.8% |

Comments

Compared to what?

Compared to what?

Exentsive RAM

Difference compared to what?

I had it spec'd for the CAD I use, so it runs very well.

Upgraded from A10-5800k w/ 7850 to i5-4690k w/r9 290. Unbelievable performance difference

Very fun to play on, moved from toaster to god pc. High framerates and low temps.

.

Only had a mid-range laptop before, so the difference is obviously huge.

Need to be more specific. Vs my old computer, vs a pre-built /w same specs?

My system is blazing fast compared to what I have had in the past. Plus installing the OS myself, I can cut down on a lot of unneeded programs.

My previous machine was so bad though that even a prebuilt would have been an upgrade.

64 Gigs of water cooled ram, SLI'd graphics card, and a 6 (hyperthreaded to 12) core processor? Hell yeah I saw some performance.

Any prebuilt i7 system has too many budget components.

have never used an off the shelf PC that is similar to any of my custom built PCs so can't be sure.

yes, significantly higher than it would be otherwise

This was my first personal desktop PC, before I'd had a laptop for lower end games and school work so can't say for sure. I do know that I know my way around it perfectly and I've been able to successfully diagnose faults with my PC and easily fix them by opening up the case. Wouldn't have known how to do this with a pre built PC.

I came from a MacBook pro with a core 2 duo

Coming from a MacBook absolutely

Selecting parts that I wanted allowed me to push overlocks on my personal rig further than a similarly priced prebuilt would.

Custom built so it answers exactly my needs

Upgraded from an aging laptop - huge difference and still going strong 2 years later

Performance compared to similarly priced off the shelf systems was doubled.

The SSD made the biggest difference.

I haven't owned a pre-built since I was 18, I'm 34 now and this was the 4th PC i've assembled myself. I don't really have anything to compare it to other than my previous custom builds.

I've only used non gaming pre builds and my friends prebuilt but it definitely runs better than his.

Since you know what is going into it, performance isn't dampened by bloatware and single slot video cards that always seem to be packaged with PC's that cost enough to have a gaming graphics card instead.

Runs very well however I've not owned a computer before that has similar specs

Previous computer was old, so yes, of course.

Poor assumption

Best bang for buck

I was upgrading from a much weaker computer, though

At about the same time, I purchased a nearly identical PC from Dell for my commercial office. The hand-picked Motherboard, Memory, and other hardware result in a noticeable difference in load times between disk and RAM.

Moooooooooooo

Versus what? I cannot answer this.

Unsure what the question means

no bloatware

Compared to other pre-built branded systems, yes.

The games I want to play run way better now.

Way better for way cheaper.

50% OC on water

It was a significant upgrade over an old system

Significantly better.

No extra bloatware installed

I come from a 2012 laptop which, at the time, had decent specs. It didn't have an SSD, the custom build does which is already a huge difference overall.

I could really tell the visuals were far better right off the bat. When I first booted my system and started Counter Strike: Global Offensive, it was grainy, and hard to see. After getting my GPU, it became a whole new game and had to change a few configurations I had. Not to mention being able to play games I couldn't before thanks to my GPU.

I haven't used a non-self built machine, so I've only ever used this. The clean OS and lack of crapware / bloat ware definitely helps though.

Faster than light

No bloatware other than windows

Better

I went from a 4 year old laptop with a gtx630m to a gtx1060

Gaming performance increased. More RAM, high end video card, and ssd

Don't have anything to compare it to

Apples to oranges, though, since my comparison is generally with laptops.

With a similarly specked of the shelf PC the performance is indistinguishable if you aren't overclocking.

SSDs baby.

My system would have cost at least 800-900 if store bought. I bought a few parts brand new in box/used/heavily discounted so all in all it was about \$565. For reference it's an i5-6600, 1060 6GB, 16GB DDR4, 120+240GB SSD.

Only ever had customs

I was using a 3 year old Dell laptop at the time so the difference was like night and day

6 years in and it's still better than a 1000\$ pre-built

My upgrades to my pre-built have made it run a bit faster.

not only performance, but longevity

Question unclear, "marked difference" compared to what? Any prebuilt?

Best bang for your buck when you choose each component and what form factor

My personal computer didn't come with a ton of preloaded software that I don't use. It only has what I put on it.

60 fps

much better

I would have bought more than what I need either way to leave room to grow into, so it would be hard to notice a difference.

Mostly because it was newer and more powerful hardware

4k 60fps

It was my first PC in ~5-6 years. Huge upgrade :)

Just sack Pat!

Hard to compare apples and oranges

A huge difference compared to my I5 laptop. my desktop can have virtually unlimited tabs or windows open. I can run 3d autocad effortlessly whereas my laptop struggles with 2d at times.

Overclocking with liquid cooling.

Vanilla windows without bloatware from terrible developers is glorious to behold.

Building it yourself doesn't change how the computer runs

More than half the performance at less than 1/4 of the price of the computers at the work-place.

No comment

No bloat ware. Quality components.

You can tailor a computer for it's exact usage requirements. This always offers best possible value to performance ratio.

You have total control over every aspect. Being PC literate would basically do this anyway, but the fact that you don't start off your PC experience with a computer that's bogged down with bloatware, and that you can't rely on some big-box store for a warranty on the system as a whole really makes you aware of what's going on in your machine and will force you to optimize your experience. Hopefully that makes sense.

Before building my own, I used a "gaming" laptop.

i am more powerful, as a gamer

My previous system was also custom, but old. So the new system is in comparison to an older custom system, not an off-the-shelf system.

Huge difference over 10yr old off the shelf dell for school

Compared to consoles? Yes. I have no application used for work but I'm sure that it would also be much better the self-builds.

I have little to no experience with high end off the shelf builds, so I don't have a good frame of reference to compare.

I researched before buying and building my PC. Therefore, I know what kind of performance it's capable of.

First pc

Way overkill, did not need such power.

I used to own a bumblefuck single-core pc, so of course I'd notice the difference.

previous machine was a very old laptop

This question doesn't give context. In comparison to what? Previous systems? Laptops? Desktops?

I have full control over my system, and any pre installed bloatware typically shipped with prebuilt systems does not exist, helping with performance.

No factory-installed bloatware.

I knew what performance I'm getting but big surprise was the sound clarity of the new Integrated Audio solution.

It is a way more powerful machine than any computer I have ever personally used.

Didn't understand that question. Difference between my rig and what?

No bloatware

???

Able to fine tune it

It had a very low standard to beat, mainly just the ssd being quick was the real improvement, but it's a pretty unrealistically high-end build on its own

Custom meant i could prioritize components important for gaming

I just payed less

Not sure how that compares to a similar "off-the-shelf" build, but it was definitely faster than my old one.

Johnson

I came from a laptop with a 635m

Prebuilt systems were resource-bound in at least one of my use cases. My custom system can run almost all of my tasks without being under too much duress.

Pre-built systems often cut corners to keep costs down.

As uposed to a console or my 8 year old work PC?

You always get more performance/dollar when you build yourself.

It was much more enjoyable than my Xbox one

It was my first system with an SSD though, so...

Better overclocking and flexibility

Not having to deal with bloatware initially is a huge bonus.

No unexpected bottlenecks or incompatibilities

it can d-load porn faster

Performance vs. what?

Got to know the procedure for building a PC quite a bit better

Huge upgrade over my old system

Graphics intensivery gaming obviously much smoother than old system, which was almost 5 years old ,

difference compared to what?

Was able to safely overclock CPU and GPU beyond stock values

I have only ever built my one desktop, bought a laptop. Desktop vs Laptop is an unfair comparison.

I upgraded from an old laptop, so the pc performed much better

SSD is love

Came from a six year old laptop

Building a custom system allows you to choose parts that excel at certain tasks. For example, one processor may be better at rendering complex meshes in a 3D modeling suite, while another may perform much better at video encoding.

Compared to my previous computer

Didn't really compare at the time, all that was important was that it was much cheaper for similar components.

I moved from a laptop to a custom desktop.

144 Hz coming from a PS4 is amazing

This is my 3rd custom system

Performance came from a SSD HD versus other self built systems that didn't include a SSD HD. (First system build with a solid state drive)

If I could put more than yes than I would choose that option.

It's wayyyyyyy better.

The only reference I have to go off of is laptops since I can't build those. I have never owned a pre-built machine.

I was able to put the components I wanted in my system, instead of them being in a pre-built machine

I'm not sure what you mean by this question. Would depend on the computer, an i7 prebuilt will be faster than a old custom p4.

as opposed to what? sli GTX1080s with an overclocked 7700k performs as I expected.

Much better and much cheaper than my brothers pre-built computer

Performance is not a matter of custom build or not

I choose not to install junkware (or indeed anything which I don't intend to use).

With better parts, you need better parts to accommodate them, for instance, I have a nice graphics card, but a just okay processor, and a 9 year old TV instead of a monitor. My system has potential if I spend more money, but I don't have more money to spend. I'm lucky it is as nice as it is, but it is not as great as I'd hoped.

I can't compare, but the devil is in the details, isn't he?

I had a dated laptop before custom building

PC is suited for exactly what I wanted and Im getting some great performance

Best PC I've regularly used

i upgraded from an old pentium 4 to a 6-core AMD beast, lol

Upgraded from a previous build which was seriously old.

I didn't really understand this question, as compared to what?

First thing is experience, no bloatware when you log in. Performance, \$ for \$ is always higher in custom built rigs in the higher end categories.

more powerful than run of the mill best buy/dell pc's, but you can find similarly powered ones from smaller niche sites

Went from a laptop with a Radeon 7670M to a desktop with an R9 390, I would say I got quite a boost to the performance.

Starts up in like 2 seconds and never seen another computer do that

I could have ordered the same custom build for markup.

My custom system was a huge upgrade over the previous (off-the-shelf) computer I had so it's not surprising. I would've noticed a difference had I bought an off-the-shelf computer roughly equivalent to my custom built one

Thank you, Sam

It was much better

Much faster, less adware & junk software

Large increase.

I can no longer resist the pizza. I open the box and unzip my pants with my other hand. As I penetrate the gooey cheese, I moan in ecstasy. The mushrooms and Italian sausage are rough, but the sauce is deliciously soothing. I blow my load in seconds. As you leave the bathroom, I exit through the front door....

Personally I did run into more OS (Windows) errors on my own build, but it cost less for better performance so it was worth it.

Haven't really tested my PC's capabilities thoroughly yet

If computers work, they work.

pre built computers come with pre installed software that are mostly unnecessary and bloat the machine

My previous custom-built computer was getting long in the tooth, so its performance would naturally be lower.

Built an entirely new desktop after using the same laptop for the past 5 years. Big performance improvement

I'm imagining it being better than anything I could have gotten for the same price

Overclocked weeeeeee

Custom box = no bloat

SSDs are great to have, and scarce in cheaper prebuilts.

Between my i7-3700k custom and the i7-4790 I noticed a bit of a speed boost installing windows.

mainly due to modernizing parts and software

I haven't used a prebuilt since 2001 so that's hard to say.

How would you know unless you had both to compare

When dealing with higher cost (than my personal build) personal computers they definitely feel more sluggish, less responsive.

It has been a long time since I've had a new PC so it's hard to compare w/ prebuilt

Upgraded from off the shelf laptop to a powerful desktop.

Went from a laptop to a desktop.

What does this question want to compare to?

Overclocked my GPU and CPU

Custom desktop vs older prebuilt laptop. Comparing apples to oranges.

Yeah performance in the fields i need performance, because of flexibility when buying parts

Always had custom systems so no different to the past

i came from using a laptop

I was able to purchase more powerful components individually, as opposed to a store bought PC with a markup.

2 years, 0 issues at all (knock on wood).

I managed to piece together a hex-core xeon system with 24gigs of ram on a budget.. i would have been stuck with a dual core and four gigs of ram if I went prefab

marked difference compared to what?

My previous system was nearly 8 years old.

Hard to say, really, because my old computer was more than a few years old.

Huge improvement.

Most off the shelf systems did not come with a dedicated gpu at the time

I don't really have a comparison

I have been building my computers for so long, I don't really have a baseline to compare.

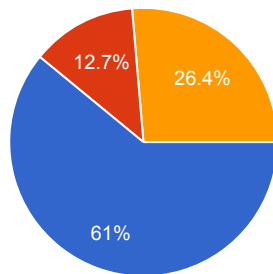
First desktop PC with GPU, cannot compare to an off-the-shelf with GPU

Your answer

Custom usually seems faster because it doesn't come with all the bloatware placed on it from companies like HP, Dell, and IBM.

By not using an OEM Windows installation, I avoided crapware. It had less to do with the hardware and more with the software.

Are you willing to pay more for a customised/customisable product?



| | | |
|-------|-------------|-------|
| Yes | 4040 | 61% |
| No | 841 | 12.7% |
| Maybe | 1747 | 26.4% |

Comments

Depends on the product

Depends if I need it.

I did!

I wouldn't pay more for the same parts in a pretty built system.

Depends on the product really

Depends on what advantages are, being able to customize isn't the end all

If the customised add something yes

Buying a customised product or buying a customizable product?

if it provides something worth the extra money

Personalized? No. Flashy Lights? No.

Although right now a lot of the appeal of building your own is that it can be much cheaper for similar performance

My build cost me ~\$7k.... so yeah...

for the same performance, I would not pay more to build my own.

Some products pre-built gives more reliability and compact size

Yes if I am doing the customization and the extra cost is my own time.

Yes for individual parts. No for pre built systems.

The whole point is to spend less for more. Price/Performance ratio

Fairly vague. There's few certain parts that I'd pay more for customizable, but overall I'm more interested in cost and performance.

Assuming there is a clear benefit to do so then yes, although only an increase in cost of 20% max compared to a non custom.

Depends on the longevity and intended use.

I like good looks

It depends on the customization and what it does. I'm willing to spend more on a customization that increases performance rather than just increasing aesthetic appearance.

Custom PCs sold from custom shops are overpriced.

It has more utility, which is a unique feature

I build them myself to get more bang for my buck, I don't care at all about aesthetics or telling people I own a "custom" product.

...on the condition that I'm the one doing the building .

Thinking of paying for cable mods for design and later down the line custom water cooling.

Depends on which product it is.

I paid more for a computer case where every HDD/Optical trays could be removed. Plus a few other things.

Mostly because i can modify/upgrade slowly over time to reduce/spread the initial cost.

I rather buy parts and make it myself for cheaper

Moooooooooooooooooooo

It depends on how much more.

Depends on my paychecks

If I really want it customized

Longevity.

Depends on what it is and what type of customisation you can do.

With respect to what? To a laptop, a prebuilt desktop...?

Depends on price, I'm always on the side of price-performance ratio. While I havent tasted the high-end stuff because of my limited budget, Im always willing to sacrifice a few more bucks if the component is better than the one Im getting

Depends if the seller is offering something I cannot do or can do only with great difficulty.

If it will give me the desired output I am looking for, then most definitely. Whether it is gaming, streaming, recording, video editing, or whatever else I may be doing, I want to ensure the PC can handle it all without a shadow of doubt.

Always willing to pay a premium for customization, otherwise my current build would be way cheaper

price has to be reasonable because all it would save me is 3-4 hours of assembly.

My main reason for building my own pc is lower cost

Depends on my needs or use of the product.

In terms of parts, definitely not. However, this is not the case for water cooling loops. I pay more for a custom loop than a comparable AIO closed. This is mostly because of aesthetics

Probably not. Cost was a big factor for me, and I didn't find it difficult at all to build it myself.

I want to buy modular components.

Not for a desktop, but laptops, yes.

I would have to do research before saying a definite "yes" or "no"

I'm all about buying the part that I want.

The aim of the custom PC was to pay less, but I could understand paying more for modular/upgradeable support.

im not sure if this is talking about customisable components like a gpu that has aftermarket cooler, or lighting options or a customisable prebuilt. if its the first a customisable component then yes i do that all the time.if its a customisable pretbuilt then no, because i am still paying some one to do work i can do myself.

I'll buy the superior product

In the long term I can replace the parts as needed rather than the whole machine

Depends on price vs performance.

Depends on the product and the use I'm gonna get off of it.

Depends on whether there's a stock product that meets my needs.

Are you kidding me? I'm not paying more for jack squat.

Only if major parts like the CPU and PSU are able to freely handle upgrades

I only trust myself with the components

Not for bare off the shelf parts, but for paint mods, unique layouts, etc certainly

If paying more means buyer higher quality longer lasting components

well you get more performance with custom, as you don't pay for labour

Depends on what my customization options are and what my needs are

Nope, just give me the parts. Aesthetics is for Jabroni's, speed is all.

Assuming the product is a pre-built but customized PC

Just customized in general, maybe. But for building my own thing I like to believe that I'm getting a better deal by not buying it from someone else, so it's cheaper.

Just like paying extra for custom furniture.

Why would I, when I can do it myself?

I got the flashy lighting because I wanted the world to know that this is what power looks like.

Why not? I use it daily; might as well go all out.

If I have money and it's worth the investment

Having a modular system helps promote competition opposed to ecosystem locking. I

imagine customization drives down prices.

Depends whether you get more value compared to off the shelf components

Im a bit torn on this, but mostly I lean toward no. I built it myself because I felt like, I could save money and learn. But the learning was fun, and a benefit, not a chore. Even without the learning, Id have built because I saved money. So even If I had some serious money to burn, no I do not think I would pay money for a custom PC.

No comment

You shouldn't have to. Diligence in researching components/peripherals, careful shopping and a bit of patience for sales allow for great value.

Always depends on the features

Define?

Not too sure what the "product" is

i want to do games my way

As long as I understand what I'm buying and know that this custom product will last longer and have better price performance than non-custom products.

Depends if I'm the one customizing it or if it's a custom prebuilt

Yes if, and only if: 1) If the cost of the components included are close to the sale price of the custom PC. 2) I don't want to spend the time to build it myself and troubleshoot possible issues.

maybe elaborate on this question

Depends on performance and reliability

Customisable, yes. Customized, no.

Willing yes, but parts are cheaper than pre-built right?

Aesthetics, no. Performance and conformance, yes

No factory-installed bloatware.

Depends on the product.

It depends how much more.

If there is not option of DIY, then yes. If there is, no

Depends on what is customised

I like flexibility of customizable products but I will not pay more if I can get a non-customizable product that meets my needs for less money.

I have a practical limit, even though it would be nice to have a custom water loop etc, but in general paying more for a more suited product just makes sense, like with suits. For example, I got Windows home N, because I hate the added (albeit minimal) extra shit

It depends. If I'm in the market for a new compy, and an off-the-shelf system will do what I need for less, I'll go with that. Otherwise I'll build one.

It depends. If by "customizable" you mean "change colors of an RGB strip" or something cosmetic like that then definitely not

depends on the product

Depends entirely on what you are getting with this "customised" product, i'm sure i could buy an off the shelf pc with the exact same parts as mine, so since i don't care for looks if it cost less i would be silly to build it myself. If this customised product is the only way to get the parts i want, which it often is, then yes. Even \$5000 pre builds still have 7700K's, they just add more gpu's, i would have wanted an x99 upgrade way before adding a second graphics card.

Point of custom is that i can source parts cheaper than a pre-built

No, i already am on a really tight budget so i milk everything i can find to the last drop (2. Hand things and etc. New is just too expensive)

Depends on the products.

This is one of the primary reasons for a custom system. It's cheaper than a branded off the shelf system

Then the experience adds value, which makes it more fun to do, build, and use. It's like building with LEGO.

Shaft

I'll pay more for performance and usefulness, but not necessarily for looks.

If I can't do it myself, and it fits my needs/wants, then yes.

Only when I have excess income

It's supposed to be cheaper in the first place

Specs and price are the only two things that matter. Time to build is trivial. I'd pay more for it only if it had better specs. Specs being equal, price is the primary motivation. However, it's worth noting that for every level of specs, there's no pre-built that comes close to the price of your own custom.

I have a toaster in my PC(http://hackedgadgets.com/wp-content/hack_the_toaster_01.jpg) depends on price / specs

If I were to customize, I would want to do it myself.

Depends how much more.

Depends on the modification.

Pay more up front in the idea of paying less over time.

as long as there are real benefits; "custom" alone is not a reason

Usually I'm custom-building to save cost, even if it is more fun too.

Not sure what you mean

I owned a MacBook where hard drive, ram, and battery were all easily replaced. Minimal tools if any. Newer models everything is soldered in place, kind of a bummer.

Customisable as in future-proof customized. Don't give a shit about RGB or other easthetics stuff.

Vague question

It depends what it is.

I paid about 300 more for mine.

Depends on what kind of customizing we're talking about. Engravings, lights, modding, sure.

Painting, not so much.

For the future, yes. I will be upgrading with custom desigbs and parts, but it will still be cheaper than pre-built.

It should be cheaper, you're doing it yourself. You dictate what goes where.

Depends of item / circumstances.

again, as opposed to what? I buy off the shelf for corporate but have never had PC at home that wasn't self built aside from a NAS or media center box(HP N40L and N54L)

I purchased the MasterCase Pro 5, which costs more than the other cases in its series as it comes with extra accessories to allow for more customization.

Not for PCs

Would I? Yes. Can I? No.

I like taking things into my own hands when its economically feasible

Paying more for a customized product doesn't bother me, it's the glory of having everything I want in my system and not being subjected to whatever parts already come inside the system depends on the advantages it gives me (cost, experience, enhancements etc)

If feasible, I would build the product myself instead of paying more for it to be customisable.

Otherwise, yes, but only slightly more.

An uncustomizable PC seems like throwing money down the drain given potential part failures or requirement changes down the line.

I'm not entirely sure what this means. If you mean modular/compatible parts that can be interchanged (redundant, I know) then maybe. Depends on the part

Depends on the product and how often I would use it

The fact that you can get exactly what you want is worth paying slightly more for if you have to

Although I would be willing to, it worked out cheaper anyway.

Depends on what else, past the physical hardware, is included.

First of all, thanks, Sam. And also thanks.

One of the main advantages of a custom build is the low cost compared to prebuilt systems not in a million years.

I prefer to build my own

Not worth.

(██████) NAME'S DONG. JAMES DONG (██████)

If I have the money and no time

If a non customized computer had decent performance gains at the same price and was still upgradeable I would consider it, otherwise building it yourself is easy enough and normally gives you better warranties even if they are per part instead of the whole rig.

Must make sense from a performance standpoint.

Only if it's for fictionally

I'm willing to pay more to build a PC, not to buy a custom PC

Depends on price to performance, functionality, and various other factors.

Depends in the product

I am probably just misinterpreting this question because I didn't pay more just because it is customised/customisable. I spent more than a typical off-the-shelf system, but at the same time spent less on the sum of the individual components than I would have if I went with a pre-built 'custom' computer from a vendor like ibuypower.

Depends on the part and how its customized. I am a sucker for cosmetics in games though.

Question is not clear. "Pay more" compared to what?

A custom piece of trash is still a piece of trash, get what I'm sayin'?

If it were built for me sure, but no if im doing the work.

Only if i have full customization control

As long as it's cheaper than a comparable PC that's pre-built.

So long as available customizations warrant a price increase.

Depends on the item. RGB? no interest. Modular PSU / Case? Very interested.

depends on the situation and the product.

It depends. If I was buying a controller, and it's just a different color, I expect it to be the same price. If I have the option to choose multiple colors and customise the buttons or something, then I don't mind paying a bit extra.

apart from specialized cases, I see no need.

Not sure what this means: I would like to keep everything interchangeable, as far as aesthetics/color I don't care as long as it is high quality.

Only thing I wouldn't be will to do myself is watercooling and the maintenance that requires.

I'd pay for performance but not only customization

I would only pay more for a custom case.

Depends on what can be customized.

Purchased more expensive community designed and made Ncase M1 due to unique design to fit full performance parts in a compact case.

Depends, not much 100-200 dollars maybe

Depends on price per performance.

Depends on the level and type of customization.

It depends on if the customization is actually meaningful and proportional to the extra cost.

Not only on the basis of customisation, only if it will be the best performance for the value.

I pay for what I need because its cheaper to drop thanks I don't

I will purchase standard hardware over properity crap any day

I'd rather do the build myself than go to someone else.

To an extent. But performance is more important.

I'm willing to for certain things but there was no need to in this scenario.

a s t h e t i c

I would if I had money

It's already cheaper to buy parts and build or upgrade current setup.

It would depend if the customized part was purely aesthetic or offered some sort of performance boost.

Asus

Maybe for custom water loop machine

Not sure what this exactly means. Like a customized pre-built?

If this means modularity of desktop PC's, then yes. Or rather it should be a given.

I'm not too sure what this question is asking. Is it asking if I were to buy a prebuild machine would I pay more? Or if I was building my own computer, would I pay more for more flexible and customizable parts? For this question I'm assuming it's the latter.

I'm a function over form type of person. The benefits must be objectively better with regards to the price to performance ratio.

Only at a fair price

If I want custom colors without voiding warranty, I'd pay my souls for it.

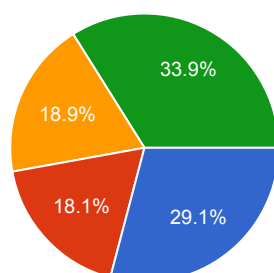
I'm not really sure

,

Custom built PCs are almost always cheaper for high-end systems

Not sure of the question here... Building your own PC is usually cheaper.

Since the original purchase have you made any further upgrades/repairs?



No, I haven't made any further upgrades **1933** 29.1%

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------|
| 1 | 1199 | 18.1% |
| 2 | 1257 | 18.9% |
| More than 3 | 2253 | 33.9% |

Comments

GPU

SSD

Ssd

New GPU

RAM

GPU and RAM

Cooler

Video Card

Bought another larger hard drive

Audio and monitor.

Ssd, fans, hyper 212, rx 480

Upgraded hard drive.

Custom loop water cooling, GPU water block

Had to replace the motherboard and fan

Upgraded the old power supply I used after completing initial build.

Upgraded r9 290 to r9 fury

GTX 980 -> GTX 1080

Upgraded GPU several times, new fans, smaller case, smaller motherboard, added storage drives

I added a 2TB HDD and some LEDs

Added hard drive, only SSD at first

Multiple added SSD's and new GPU

added another 8 gigs of ram

Added more RAM and upgrade the video card

Upgrades over 2-3 years

added more storage.

Motherboard died

Added graphic card and HDD.

16 to 32gb RAM, better processor/mobo/RAM, better GPU, new case, liquid cooler.

Case, PSU, Fans, and getting an HDD and new GPU soon.

Added another hard drive, added RAM

Power Supply to 600w / GPU to GTX-1070

I added a GPU a few months after I built it.

RGB!

A 3rd fan that can be controlled by my motherboard

Build is a month old. No new parts yet.

Since my original build in 2015, I upgraded my cpu/mobo/ram to skylake, I upgraded my gpu, and I added a second ssd. None of them were necessary upgrades though.

New CPU cooler. ADDED LEDs. ADDED storage.

As I said before the PC was first built in 2009. At this point there probably is not a screw from the original build left.

Case with sound dampening

Storage, memory

not yet, maybe in a year

Had this PC a long time - upgraded memory, video card, hard drive.

New video card.

Changing out CPU/GPU/RAM/Storage

Yes for previous several computers. No on current.

More storage

1 to computer itself - changed out video card, but not really an upgrade (7850 to 760).

Several to components like mouse/mousepad/keyboard/speakers.

New gpu, extra ssd

Had to replace motherboard

Added the GPU myself because I already had one in my old PC.

Updated the RAM and replaced the video card

980ti to 1080

PC is just over a year old and I've had to replaced the PSU after a month due to a faulty product.

I can't stop!

2 GPUs, hard drives, SSD, etc

I upgraded the CPU cooler and case fans (overall cooling) and the GPU from a GTX 970 to a GTX 1070

I've upgraded several components to the point of replacing my entire PC

Until I find a decently priced NZXT Hue+

Got a gtx 980TI to replace the R9 285 i originally purchases

New case and aftermarket CPU cooler

Added an ssd and a better gpu

Been updating this PC for over 10 years

just the hard disk. Very future proof indeed

It was a few weeks ago.

New PSU and RAM plus several cleanings and cable repairs

Added another GPU. (SLI)

New GPU, CPU Cooler, Case, and PSU.

upgraded practically everything but the power supply now

Exactly 3

A newer gpu, a new cooler, a new case, a new power supply, a new SSD

Ive had the system for about 9 years now. I think the only original part is the case.

Another hard drive.

At this point, I've changed the entire build from upgrading parts.

Installed one more HDD and one more SSD, and will be upgrading the video card sometime in the next month or so.

Graphics card from a 750ti to a 980ti and a new SSD mx100-mx300

Added SSD and installed USB port/card reader

New case, new fans (fan controller)

I got a second, larger SSD.

GTX260 --> GTX470, CPU fan replacement, PSU swap, also this question has no option for only 3

I'm planning to

AIO liquid cooling, new case for better management and space, fans for specific air flow and pressure

RAM, GPU, GPU, CPU/Mobo, PSU, in that order I believe.

Updated RAM, CPU, GPU and added SSD's

Added HDD and a PCI WiFi card

But I plan on doing so. Only part that isn't future proofed is the GPU, that purchase will happen in a 9-15 months.

Added another SSD. nothing substantial.

It's a constant thing

I've upgraded the video card and RAM since the original build (as well as a few fans, but I won't count that).

I upgraded the CPU

no "3" option? because my answer is 3

CPU+GPU+PSU+RAM upgrades at different times (2x CPU/GPU upgrades, too)

I switched the case and couple fans for more quiet configuration.

Video Card Upgrade in 2014, External Sound Card and Video Card upgrade in 2016

Upgraded video card

New wireless card & hard drive

added additional memory stick

GPU, power supply and CPU cooler moo

More storage, upgraded GPU, nicer case.

not yet since I bought it very recently, but definitely will in the future

Memory, SSD, Sound card (since been removed), Graphics card

Upgraded from a GTX 970 to a GTX 1080

I only had a 250GB SSD, now I've added a 2TB HD

Graphics card upgrade and SSD.

Case fans, more RAM, and SLI GPU

new SSDs, GPUs, monitors & CPU cooler over 5 years

Added storage

More was harddrives

In my older system from 2011, I purchased a 970 to replace the older 570. In Jan of this year, I replaced everything except the case, Blu-ray burner, and power supply

Cpu heatsink fan failed. Had to replace.

I have installed an extra hard drive. So far, I have not seen the need to upgrade my PC, even though it was built in 2013.

Psu exploded (corsair cx750m) ssd broke (Intel 540)

A new monitor, keyboard and a LED case fan.

Had a problem with my original HDD

added ram, SSD and then 2 mirrored SATA drives for large storage.

Previous PC had had 3. This one is still a little new.

Original PSU shorted, had to replace it.

My initial CPU cooler went out on me so I had to buy a new one. After running that one for awhile, I received a new cooler for christmas (water cooled!!!!) and had to replace it again. I also added 2 HDD's to the system, and had to replace my initial motherboard. When I put my GPU in, it somehow fried or short circuited my motherboard's sound card. Got a replacement since then and no issues. Looking at adding another monitor as well.

Case Fan

New mobo and cpu

SSD, HDD, graphic card, RAM.

Theseus' computer

Upgrading each time something cool comes out

Upgraded the following components: SSD, Graphics Card, CPU Cooling, Case

added case fans and a blue ray drive

More ram, graphics card, new thermal paste every 9 months to a year

Upgraded memory once and graphics once.

I've had it for about a year.

Graphics, internal PCIe peripherals etc.

PSU replaced, RAM added, Video card upgraded

I have upgraded my GPU, CPU, and also added an SSD and more RAM.

Exactly 3.

Upgraded from GTX770 to GTX970

Broke down watercooling loop for cleaning

new graphics card and new monitor

This is a week old build so I've had no reason to upgrade.

Bought a new GPU

Added a CF/SD card reader in the 5,25" bay.

Replaced faulty power supply. Only item replaced in the 4 years since build

I can add another m.2 ssd or ram, but that's about it.

More HDD's

I plan to in the near future, probably within 6 months to a year

The whole thing is an upgrade with parts from the previous two computers. I did though add an extra SSD, upgrade to 16gb of RAM, an MSI 1070 Seahawk, and put it all in a new shiny NCase M1.

My latest computer is only a few months old, though my previous build I had put several upgrades into.

Bought an SSD, and plan to add more RAM and storage eventually.

I have changed every component on my main computer between 2 and 5 times since the original purchase. I have made 3 upgrades in the last 4 months.

Added a 240GB SSD.

Installed a Blu Ray Drive, an SSD, and a new video card (from GTX 760 to GTX 970)

Added an SSD and a 2nd HDD, and replaced the GPU

My current system is 2 weeks old. My previous system was 3 years old. I "upgraded" the whole system, but haven't made any upgrades on the new system yet.

Haven't needed to update yet.

My current build(s) started with a Pentium D 930 pre-built with a bad power supply that a friend found in a dumpster in early 2009. I started replacing bad parts, upgrading, etc. Over 8 years, that system turned into the full custom i7 5820k I'm using to type this, and the half dozen other custom machines in my home office.

Soundcard, peripherals, new 144hz monitor

Additional SSD

New case, new CPU cooler, 2 graphics card upgrades, 2 SSD upgrades...

Upgraded the GPU and added an SSD

New SSD and Video Card

I haven't done a complete ground up build since George W. Bush was in office.

Just kept upgrading the same system, I've replaced all components by now.

Got a new PSU, GPU, RAM, and CPU cooler

GPU and ram

More fans and a fan controller/hub. A 1TB hard drive.

Graphics card and Ram.

Added in GPU and larger PSU

fan...?

Everything but the original boot drive is different. Everything.

Consistently upgrade various parts

upgraded graphics card, CPU cooler, added more fans

Upgrade video card almost yearly

Minor liquid damage & issues related to SLI forced a video card upgrade

I've added one SSD since then and have another M.2 SSD that I have to put into it yet.

Upgraded the GPU and RAM

The first PC will soon be 4 years old. I plan on upgrading it and very soon after completely changing the build with the upgraded parts.

I customized my case and installed the aforementioned GPU.

Power supply upgrade, mobo change, graphics card died

1 TB Samsung Evo SSD and R9 295X2

I'd like to upgrade in the future

Installed extra drives

GPU upgraded twice, added SSD, changed CPU cooler

Hard drives and aio CPU cooler

Not yet, RAM too pricey at present, Vega still hasn't released so I can't compare, other upgrades would require full enchilada overhaul, new mobo, wam [still pricey], and CPU.

Upgrade the video card(s) every year or two

It's been 4 years. And I recently took out the last part from my original build.

GPU, SSD, 2 Monitors, and other peripherals.

mainly PERIPHERALS

new cpu, more storage, RAM

Realized that the original graphics card just wasn't quite giving me the experience I expected with such an overall expensive setup. Swapping it out made the overall build feel much more balanced.

Just adding some hard drives

Fresh build, only months old

More ram, new GPU (multiple times), SSD and HD changes

I plan to upgrade the cooling and PSU soon, but have had other expenses to deal with first

I updated my power source and motherboard.

GTX 1050Ti, 700GB SSD and 8GB RAM

Kevin Richardson from the Backstreet Boys was clearly the best looking member of the Backstreet Boys. Like by far. I wonder what hair products he uses.

SSD and new GPU in 3 and a half years.

Originally built in 9/2012. Upgraded memory & GPU 11/2016.

Build is 7 years old, ram video card and HDD upgrades

Multiple keyboards, mice, headphones + amp, second monitor

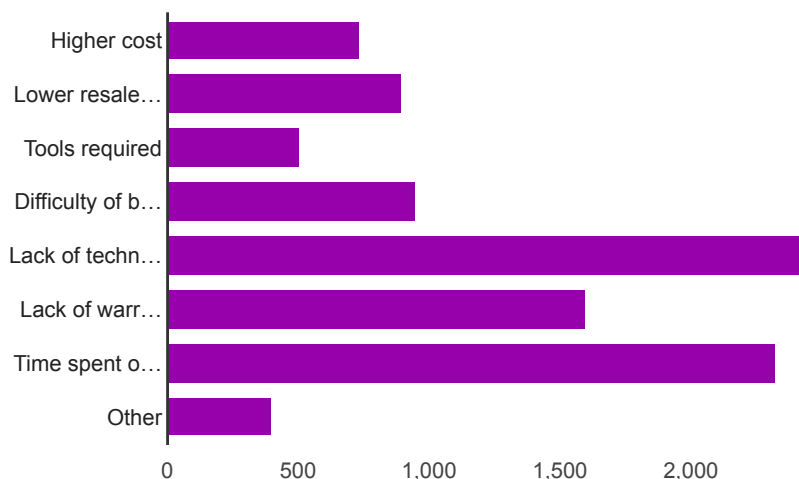
Graphics card, cooling and storage.

Thinking of upgrading the CPU

I have upgraded the GPU and installed and SSD and extra case fans.

Over the course of nearly a decade, though

Do you see any disadvantage to custom PCs?



| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Higher cost | 738 | 13.5% |
| Lower resale value | 896 | 16.3% |
| Tools required | 504 | 9.2% |
| Difficulty of build process | 949 | 17.3% |
| Lack of technical support | 2440 | 44.5% |
| Lack of warranty | 1600 | 29.2% |
| Time spent on research/build process | 2328 | 42.4% |
| Other | 398 | 7.3% |

Comments

None

none

Nope

No

No downsides

nope

Not many disadvantages really. Even tech support is unnecessary if you know how to use the internet at all.

no

No.

I'd call them disadvantages but I don't really see that as such, you have to know what you're getting into.

I still get a one year warranty through the custom company.

The lead time was a couple of weeks with the company I bought from, since they had to build it up.

It's gotta be a hobby. If you think you can search for 15 minutes and then select your parts you will be severely overwhelmed and disappointed.

If you go the route of building your own, then everything that comes with that is part of the process, if you don't want the challenge building isn't for you.

Lack of technical support can vary, as well as the difficulty of build process

Disadvantages depend on personal priorities

Only because I ended getting something getting something over my budget but with far better performance.

A basic user can spend too much easily going in blind.

I guess the no tech support for the overall system, but it seems most part companies offer help anyways. I spent way too much time agonizing over specs that now seem to not matter as much as I thought.

None of these for traditional, all of these for custom watercooling loops!

Not really.

None. The research should be done for components of a prebuilt system regardless.

Everything is on an individual part basis. Most builds don't require special tools, most parts have a manufacturer warranty, each part can be replaced and managed individually.

I can see why someone who isn't interested in computers would be pushed toward buying a prebuilt system.

Time is only a factor if you don't enjoy the process. If I didn't enjoy it, I would not spend near the time on researching as time = money. I'd probably spend <1 hour on picking components and ordering them not getting as good a deals or quite the performance I'd want, but still getting a far superior product for the same price or less than an off the shelf product.

i would say warranty but every piece in the pc will have a warranty, instead of the whole pc being under warranty like in a pre built

It didn't cost more, I see no reason to think its resale value would be lower, it didn't require any tools beyond a screwdriver, it wasn't a difficult build process, I provide more than adequate technical support myself, the parts do in fact have warranties, and I thoroughly enjoyed the time spent researching parts.

I spend a lot of time researching, but I enjoy that part too.

Building the PC takes time and although it is not difficult, some people may value their time over the cheaper cost of buying individual parts. It also comes with a lack of support and warranty for the build as a whole so it is harder to RMA singular parts rather than just the whole system.

Dont really think the difficulty is an issue, its about doing enough research.

With a custom pc each part carries warranty and some even exceed the off shelf warranty.

Not issues for me but it has turned more than 1 friend away.

you gotta do your research, not everyone likes that.

yes this are "disadvantages" in that you don't have to do this with a pre-built, however I enjoyed the process of learning more! even the planning and research was enjoyable.

People are dissuaded by the high initial cost.

It takes time and investment

Higher cost is arguable since you can streamline or glamorize anything as much as you want. I would argue it is much more difficult to resell a custom system as a whole because generally the people who are interested in buying an entire system don't have the technical knowledge to assess issues nor an understanding of what a component or build is worth. Technical support is by far the biggest barrier to entry for a lot of people. When I had success with my initial build, I was happy to suggest others do the same and even help them out but I learned that if the owner doesn't have an understanding of what they're doing (and are not eager to learn about it), it only leads to problems for the person trying to help. I'm sure this applies to quite a few hobbies/field.

Need to be very cautious and take your time researching/buying.

It is easy to make mistakes as a first time builder if you don't research enough.

Of course you will lose money right off the bat. It's like a car. Prices drop and parts go out of support over a long time. I don't think anything relatively new would have value in 10 years unlike some cars can hold their value or whatnot. It depends alot!

I enjoy doing this stuff. It's my hobby. For most people it's not worth the effort.

Not really - for tools all you really need is a screw driver and maybe a hex wrench and some scissors. there are so many video tutorials on youtube as well as guides that come with the various components that it's grown very simple to assemble. The most difficult part of the process for me is pulling the trigger on purchases vs. waiting for a better deal or a new product line to drop.

Even though custom builds are usually cheaper when you're going on higher end sometimes you can find similar pre built for cheaper. Maybe a couple 100 but I'm still satisfied

In general, I find that parts can be reused or resold extending their worth. The process is enjoyable and often time individual parts have warranties that far extend the standard warranty of a purchased system.

There are no disadvantages, just the size of your wallet as you find more that you want to upgrade, change, add, and design.

When compared to what it costs to purchase the equivalent from a retail store there is no disadvantage. Especially in the 21st century.

If applying to the average pc user

Cost is slightly higher in my opinion, but you're more protected for the future with gained experience and a build that can be added to or modified more easily.

Warranty is often provided by the manufacturer of individual parts.

If you're out of the loop for a few years, it's a bit confusing to get into the naming topology again.

Costs are typically lower if you don't succumb to scope creep. Resale benefits from having the knowledge of components and communities to part out rather than trying to sell the full system as a complete unit. The tools required are generally cheap and useful for other projects. The build process isn't all that difficult, just tedious. In the process of building you become your own technical support, so you'll never be stuck trying to escalate issues. Individual components have warranties, so no problem there. Extended / accidental damage warranties are generally rip-offs for stationary desktops. The time spent researching/building is fun unless you hate computers and are only doing this to save money.

It isn't hard, but I was afraid I'd screw it up

No disadvantage for me but maybe to newbies lack of technical support initially could be a problem until they figure out how to fix stuff like I did.

These apply mostly to less knowledgeable users.

For people not really "in the know" its a lot to process leading up to the build

Moo

Lot of people are afraid of doing it themselves

Advantages outweigh any disadvantage in my mind.

If you are not a technical person, those would be the downsides. The time it takes to build a pc lowers with experience.

Just that waiting for parts to go on sale can be time consuming. But its a nice option to be shown to buy things part by part until you have what you need to put it together.

As a home user I prefer having a warranty on each component rather than the whole system but in a corporate/business environment I find it's preferable to have a warranty on the system as a whole.

But with the higher cost comes better performance. You get what you pay for.

Obviously, the lack of a standardized build can make advanced troubleshooting a bit more difficult.

I spent 100 hours on reearch

I think the only disadvantage is that the warranty for each component can be from different companies, while a pre-built is only with the company that built the PC (Let's say Dell). You

call Dell if your PC wont work and get a new machine, but with custom PC you will have to contact the manufacturer of that part. TL;DR dealing with more companies than just one.

Cost can be higher then prebuilt but you have so much more flexibility and less worry about future obsolescence.

I checked those, but people with no knowledge seem to be building computers fairly easily. I know what I should and should not do. I just assume they have lots of money to throw at the problem, or watched a bunch of videos on the internet. Still some things may not be configured optimally, but still work because they just don't know any better. Lack of support is checked because if I build it I am the support. That isn't a problem for me, but it most likely is to an untrained person.

Not a lot of disadvantages. If you're getting into custom PC's, then it should last you around 10 years or so if you get the necessary components and take care of it. Even then, maintenance and upgrading here and there and it'll be around a lot longer.

Don't see the downside for me, but it could be intimidating to those who haven't done it before.

Risk of damaging the components during the building process.

Especially with people who have never built a computer before, it can seem like a daunting task that is nearly impossible, especially if they don't want to screw anything up.

Main thing is picking the parts, but there are so many resources (like pcpartpicker and /r/buildapc) that simplify it.

Building your own pc from scratch requires a certain level of comfort/know-how

For someone who enjoys it, no disadvantages. For the average Joe, it might be too much of a pain and too unreliable, esp. if then a single part dies and they can't just take it back to the store to get it fixed for free.

Biggest turn off for me is the danger of damaging a very expensive component due to lack of experience building

Not everyone may be cut out for a custom PC, and if they need a PC for a year or two, they may consider selling it.

As easy as building a PC may be to some, there is certainly a minimum knowledge requirement that the average person does not possess.

Higher cost can be a disadvantage but only if you want a top-of-the-line performance PC Porn.

It really isn't for everybody. Some people just want a single purchase that they don't have to think about, and businesses may want bulk purchases with easy access thechinal support.

A lot of research is required and just an afternoon is required to build. Troubleshooting is more difficult if any parts are DOA.

a prebuilt PC will always cost more than a custom built one, especially if you expect equal quality and preformance. i dont see resale value as a real factor of a PC build with how fast Pc components go out of date, however it would be much easier to sell individual components as you upgrade than it would be to sell a 2-3yr old prebuilt, especially with most people who know anything about PCs knowing that prebuilts are going to be sub par components. there is only 1 tool required to build a PC, a manual screw driver, if you do not own a manual screw driver and can not figure out how to use one you should probably reevaluate your life because that is one of the most simple and basic tools around. i see no lack of tech support for a custom Pc, there is more information and knowledge on reddit and other forums there

you will ever get out of some companies tech support. i see no lack of warranty either, all of my components have a 3- 10 yr warranty depending on component and company, most of these are going to be longer than most prebuilt companies are going to offer anyways. your time spent researching is going to be the same because you are looking at the same info for a prebuilt or custom PC, the time spent building is often very little, it took me a couple hours one evening to do my new mobo ram and cpu.

Some slimy warranties with these parts.

Prebuilt models seem fine for those who just use the computer for basic things

The point of a custom PC is that they're cheap and generally have better specs.

In today's world, the process is well documented and supported

None whatsoever

If I did, I wouldn't have built one.

Honestly, the only thing that I could consider a disadvantage is the time it takes to do the research to find the appropriate parts for your pc. I was lucky because I bought all of the components from the same store so they offered to put them together for free along with a warranty of 2 years.

Not necessarily downsides for me, but for other people in general

No disadvantages for me personally

I don't think brands really play into resale value at all (unless it's Apple).

With a custom build every part has its own, individual warranty and technical support service.

All disadvantages build personal character and skill. If you have the passion, it is always worth it.

Time spent depending, it is cool the first time learning about the components, but afterwards it can get somewhat tiring

I don't think there are disadvantages. You can spend as little or as much as you want and there is an abundance of assistance available online.

The higher cost comes from "budget-creep" where you see that you can improve a component for slightly more, which causes you to seek other component improvements, and so on.

Lots more time spent tinkering to perfection instead of playing games

You are never going to get money out of resaling an old system but you can by building them for others

Lack of warranty is only minor and more related to inconvenience of spread out warranties to individual components

I think the biggest disadvantage is that it is harder to troubleshoot when you now have your hands on the hardware as well.

Building is only a real option for a tech enthusiast. If you aren't going to take the time to learn why things are compatible, you shouldn't be doing it.

Considering the individual components usually have their own tech support/warranty I see no disadvantages to custom PCs.

Lack of technical support means that I end up being support for my family after I build them a system.

Time spent is one of the best parts

Warranty isn't problem, high cost is endemic of high end PC whether custom or prebuilt, can be time consuming to research. Biggest loss is for some people, if something goes wrong, they can't just hand it back to the company and say "fix pls"

For some users, a lack of a single warranty could be seen as a disadvantage

You get a warranty on all your components. Hardest part is figuring out what exactly you want for each part.

'Time spent' I guess, but it was very enjoyable and productive, so I'm not even sure I'd say that!

All builders should have at least basic knowledge of troubleshooting and services computers.

I don't see any of these as a disadvantage.

Who invented the skip?

You are required to think and analyse. Most consumers don't.

You should know what you're getting into. I enjoy all parts.

I don't see these as disadvantages for myself, but very valid reasons why it isn't for everyone

Once you have your system you are more likely to buy more upgrades in the future which ends up making your budget build not so budget anymore.

While you require the tools and time for research, I enjoyed the research process and will likely use the tools again. Maybe not for everyone.

Warranty and tech support is available on most individual components, but it'd be nice to have the support system behind some popular all in one systems.

For an informed builder not really any disadvantage. Maybe lack of tech support for newer builders.

Higher cost probably really individual. I.e. you want to make it look good etc.

If there are any drawbacks, they are greatly outweighed by the benefits.

Cant classify time spent as a disadvantage as it sets you up for life with basic computer building skills

Each component has a warranty and technical support, and most boutiques offer their own tech support with warranty services. There are plenty of resources to help one learn how to select components and build a custom PC. Lower resale value tends to be associated with completed builds, individual components can be sold if the original warranty can be transferred. (Highly unlikely)

For people new to building, it's a higher initial cost and you'll mostly be your own IT support as well as needing to dedicate some time for initial research

No it's better in every way to build it yourself

As before, I had to find out for myself what was dead on arrival.

I enjoyed the whole process of building a PC, but many may not. For me there was no downside, I saved money, I learned, and I built something. My initial concerns were some of what you have listed here, lack of technical support was a big one, but then I realized, I have almost never called tech support for anything ever? So what was I worried about? The parts have manufacturing warranties as well, so that wasn't a big concern.

No comment

Only for beginners, of course.

I don't see any downsides

With all the free learning materials online, there's no excuse for not building a computer (barring willful ignorance and apathy).

Resale value is not low if you sell your build in parts. This of course depends on which parts you chose in the first place. Certain parts retain value better than others.

I don't think these are disadvantages if you know your way around a computer - and you kind of have to to build one.

these are minor inconveniences, to a powerful gaming being

I see no disadvantages, because I enjoy the process a lot and know some stuff about computer parts and how to handle them, but people who don't might get scared by the building process.

When shit breaks, you can't just call the store and have it replaced today. It's on you to figure out what's wrong.

You always want to upgrade more and it ends up being a big money sink, even if performance gains are good.

Having to work as my own tech support is a huge pain. I build my own systems because it's cheaper and I know exactly what I'm getting and installing, not because I particularly enjoy the process.

Lack of tech support but only for those with low of skill in terms of troubleshooting

Higher cost only because of high level of components selected

I spent nearly 6-9 months researching components, making mock builds, price tracking, etc. I wanted to make sure that if I was going to spend >\$1000, it would be a great computer and will last for several years. I also had to make a choice to either build now or wait even longer for new technology to be released. Then when it's all said and done, building the computer can have issues too if you're unlucky with a DOA component or did not calculate something correctly (hardware does not fit in case, missing component, etc). It's quite hard to troubleshoot yourself when there's no one there to mentor you or you're unable to explain the situation to online forums clearly enough for others to help.

Higher cost is entirely due to the watercooling (hard tubing)

I dont really feel like there is any disadvantage for building my own PC. The only thing that took me a while was researching and building, which I enjoyed too.

Only if they're a complete novice. It can be frustrating at times. By the way, no one really re-sells computers except for parts. Also, individual parts often have good warranties - probably even better than prefabs in most cases.

Though I kind of keep up with components and hardware anyway.

Sure did much research, but knowledge that doesn't go to waste ?

The downsides are small, and well worth-it.

Not really a con for me as I enjoyed researching.

Largely opinion

Can sometimes be higher cost than prebuilt, but usually comparable. Similarly things like RAM compatibility information might not be readily available.

Hard to spread out costs once started, as it won't be of use until complete

Someone new to building PCs will not have a user friendly experience without outside help from peers or other tools such as benchmark websites, youtube, and pcpicker.com.

If you're not willing to dedicate the time to research and building, don't own a custom PC.

My cost was only higher because I also put aesthetics into consideration (no need for my ASUS Maximus Formula VIII MOBO[\$400] ... a \$150 MOBO would have done the job) Time spent on research was also because I had ZERO knowledge or experience and wanted to do it on my own since I'm going into the IT Field

Building a PC may simply be something you will not enjoy or do not care about. Any old box off the shelf of Best Buy that can run office and chrome will be fine for most people, and the trouble and time spent learning about how/why it could be cheaper/better isn't worth it for them.

Some folks might detest having to spend time on the research or building, but I saw it as an investment.

I see advantages of Custom PCs including cheaper cost, longer warranties which also include support for the products by calling the manufacturers. The disadvantages listed above are nwha In most cases, it's cheaper. Resale value varies but custom can sometimes be better, few tools if any are required, not difficult if you know what you are doing, support provided by manufacturers, longer warranties. I only marked the above because the majority of consumers do not have the knowledge and aptitude for building a custom system or troubleshooting it if it does not work.

All of the above depend on the person doing it, I can see that some people might find it too much of a hassle or too difficult while I on the other hand enjoy the entire process from researching components up to ordering them and putting it all together and seeing it work! It's easy to make a mistake and purchase components which are incompatible. There are a lot of standards and technologies, and they change frequently.

I can understand reasons for each of these options, but an argument can be made that each of these is merely conditional to the machine you are building.

Pre-builts come with simple fix-it-all warranties.

"Time spent on research/build process" that's part of the fun of building your own PC.

I think the main thing that is a problem is trying to find out how to make a system of a set quality, but you also learn that consumers will buy prebuilts with flagship CPU/GPU but with a worse motherboard/PSU etc. I imagine, but don't know, that selling a custom pc would be harder, as if people would assume it's been built in such a way that it could be running slower than a shop made, as there's no quality assurance. Higher costs, in the sense that you always want a better PC when planning your own, I may have settled for less just being apathetic and buying a prebuilt. May.

resale value? is that even a consideration?

Lack of warranty is not existent - each part you have ordered has its own warranty. +RMA'ing parts +knowing how to fix ur pc +usually less cost +with your knowledge , you'd save money by fixing it yourself to an extent

If you don't want to troubleshoot your issue, a custom built pc is not a good match for you. Contacting support for individual part manufacturers for an undetermined issue is not going to work.

Plenty of technical support from product vendors and friendly folks online. Every part you buy has a warranty.

Initial investment of time to understand parts and usage. There is also a learning curve to know what hardware preferences you have. Case airflow, how much ram you actually need, what cooler types you prefer, etc.

Though I ordered all the parts from the same retailer, they were reluctant in any kind of support when my motherboard had a PCIe-performance issue, which eventually ended in me paying for a repair at ASUS (they claimed I had bent CPU pins), and then finding out that wasn't the issue at all, and the motherboard was fine (my old 680 was crashing in PCIe slot 1, but not 2).

It's worth it.

Trouser snake

You do get a warranty, just on individual parts rather than the system as a whole
you accept responsibility for the build, I'm ok with that

I don't understand usually custom have better warranties individually than store bought

There are perceived disadvantages such as the lack of support. However, I believe if you're at the level that you're building your own computer, you probably can handle the support piece yourself (or any other perceived disadvantage).

Time spent on research is half the fun and building is the other half of the fun so I consider those positives.

Higher cost ONLY because of the tendency to want to upgrade when its not really needed
Parts are still covered mostly under manufacturer's warranty as long as any prebuilt would be.

I don't but many do

Obviously it costs a bit more if you are going for high end, but beyond that I don't see any disadvantages.

Those who don't like to tinker and easily get frustrated will not enjoy this as much.

These honestly did not pose significant obstacle to me. But these are large, large barriers for many people.

Firmly believe a small amount of research for components/build process make custom worth it in every scenario

You commit to building a pc to learn how to overcome these difficulties which are exaggerated to outsiders to PC building.

You will easily starve your wallet.

Other than having to buy some tools (I like to do it right an bought a small kit) I don't mind having to buy them.

i think all boxes should state the opposite

I love the research process

Some people may not enjoy the research necessary, and time is valuable, if a person decides they'd rather save the time and pay more for a computer, I think that's an understandable decision. The process isn't for everyone.

Not for myself, but these are all factors I discuss with people before recommending a custom pc.

No

Overall minor disadvantages

what do you mean "lack of warranty"? it's awesome to RMA one faulty part instead of the whole box.

A lot of folks aren't interested in spending the time to research and build a PC, which I totally get, and if you want to build you should definitely do the research. That said there are so many resources now that it's pretty easy to get started.

Troubleshooting a potential hardware failure can be time consuming. My most recent build had one stick of RAM that was DOA, this delayed my build progress for about 30 minutes to find out what part was defective, and then required a few days waiting time while a replacement kit was shipped.

The time spent making sure every single thing is compatible with each other can be as long as you spend building the machine. It is not convenient for everybody as I understand, so I don't blame anybody for buying a pre-built system, but I normally encourage building your own for the experience.

To me there are no disadvantages. Selected these answers based on disadvantages to average consumer. I will always prefer custom . Wasn't sure how you wanted answered.

It can be intimidating

I ordered a lot of parts on sale and each component came with some sort of warranty. I also wanted to take my time and learn a lot. So cost, lack of warranty and time and tech support wasn't an issue for me personally. I can see it being a barrier for entry for a lot of people though. Online community and resources were absolutely essential to learn and build for me.

What's your opinion of easy "stack" style modular systems? (example Acer Revo shown below)

Meh

No opinion

meh

Interesting

Never heard of it

Never heard of them

None

no opinion

No opinion

No

Not interested

N/A

Cool

Not for me

Not a fan

Eh

Looks cool

Interesting concept

Interesting

n/a

looks cool

Neat

Never heard of it.

Never heard of them.

No opinion.

Gimmick
No idea
Ugly
none
Too expensive
Seems interesting
never heard of it
Not familiar
cool
Weird
Not familiar with them
Indifferent
stupid
No Opinion
interesting
Looks interesting
Don't care
neat
Seems cool
Dumb
Cool idea
Nah
Not sure
weird
No experience
No thanks
Meh.
Idk
Nope
seems cool
Never seen one before
Never seen it before
Lame
idk
No comment
Unnecessary
Don't have one
not interested
Neat
Unnecessary
Pretty cool

Has potential
nah
Meh
I don't know
Silly
Interesting idea
Unfamiliar
I don't like it
Neat.
Bad
I like the idea.
no idea
Don't know much about them
Never heard of
Garbage
Looks interesting
pointless
It's cute
Sceptical
Never seen it
Unsure
Oberpriced, unnecessary
Not a fan.
No clue
Definitely an interesting concept.
Pretty cool
Meh...
I like it
N/a
Looks interesting.
Expensive
Not my cup of tea
Waste of money
Don't know enough about them
Never seen this before
Pretty cool.
No interest
Looks dumb
eh
Interesting concept.
not for me

Yes

I don't know much about them

Pointless

New to me

Gross

Interesting Concept

I like them

Idk any

Never seen before

I don't know anything about it.

NA

Never seen one before.

No comment.

Wtf?

It's a nice premise. Wish it was smaller instead of taller.

indifferent

Gimmicky

Ehh

never seen before

Never heard of it.

Haven't heard of it

Don't know much about it.

Wtf is that?

Dunno

Looks stupid

Innovative

Unique

Unfamiliar

No idea what that is

no interest

Stupid

Can be modified to be more customizable but looks decent

Niche

Not interested.

silly

not familiar

They're not as cost effective as a diy computer

Seems interesting

Ew

Seems like a gimmick

ew

?

Seems interesting.

no thanks

Don't have one.

Looks neat

Never seen it before.

I've never heard of them

Crap

Looks nice

Dislike

It would be convenient as long as price closely matched original parts

Sounds nice, but I need to at least see a solid head-to-head test with a regular pc

Seems interesting.

Personalised

Not really something I'd be interested in but it could be the perfect mid point between self built and store bought.

don't know much about these systems, maybe easy to use but I guess more expensive than a self-built pc

Overpriced

gimmicky

Cool concept

Not my style

lol

Not a big fan cause we have a system that is already the standard. With this manufacturers have to make it in that format then. Plus it seems like it will be too easy. Whats the fun then.

Oh hey let me just replace this box boom done no hardwork.

Intresting for a basic pc but expensive for gaming

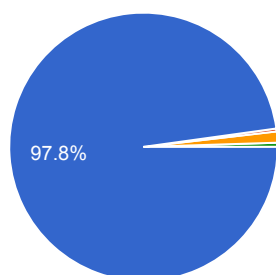
I've never seen this before.

Great idea

Other

Acer Revo (reference to question above)

Would you build a PC again?



| | | |
|-------|-------------|-------|
| Yes | 6480 | 97.8% |
| No | 23 | 0.3% |
| Maybe | 89 | 1.3% |
| Other | 33 | 0.5% |

Comments

Definitely.

Good luck with your dissertation!

Absolutely

Any time.

I have built 10 pcs for myself or friends

Building a couple for friends and family!

I hopefully won't have to for a while!

It was a fun ride.

Doing a whole new rebuild in 2018.

Fun to do, like legos for adults.

Yea totally

I will build another one.

dank meems

I'm planning a R5 Ryzen build this summer.

Nice survey, fellow PC builder.

never buying prebuilt again unless it is a laptop or super super low end machine.

Planning on making a better one this summer. My first wasn't the best and had a cheap case.

It was more of a learning experience. Now the parts are slowing down.

I am definitely looking forward to building another PC

Most definitely

Plan to with my dad this year to get him off his 7-8 year old Mac.

Its a fun and unique experience

Buy laptops, build PC's.

Long live PC

I very much enjoyed building a PC

Seriously what is that

As I replace parts from my current build, I will be building a smaller system with those parts so they also don't just go to waste.

This was fun. Thanks!

Shopping a little now for a better HMPC build to replace our 9 year old Lenovo that has served us well since the mid 2000's.

In 7 years from now lol thats how long it took to replace my last machine

Yes it's fun moooo

I don't think I'll ever buy a prebuilt desktop again.

Once a decent cpu upgrade from a 4790k comes along, hell yeah, ill rebuild the whole system.

100%

Build them all the time for work.

Not soon, but having done it once I can see myself building again in a couple years.

Hell yeah

I have been building custom PC's for myself and my children for 15 years.

I have built a number of PCs from a young age, and so I would never consider a pre-built system. I like having control over my exact specs and knowing that everything has been done correctly. Also many manufactures include bloatware or lock out features of the bios which I do not like.

It may seem daunting but is 100% worth it when your first see the boot screen

I am eager to build my next PC.

YES definitely and gonna make AMD build as my second build

Best of luck on your Defense!

Wouldn't mind building again without a doubt, given that I saved up and everything. Was a fun experience. Would recommend to most people to work to getting one.

Build all my desktop PCs

1000x yes

I will always build my PC because I can prioritise to my needs and choose the best parts, and thus get the most performance for my money.

Abso-fucking-lutely

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I think a reason a lot of people don't build a pic is one they want something portable. Secondly there is a perception that you have to be some kind of computer whizz to build one .

Thanks for doing this!

You're a pretty okay individual.

Wish I could justify the buy :P

Yes.

I've built, troubleshot, and upgraded 12+ computers in the last 3 years. In my experience, the process helps demystify computers and is a great confidence builder.

I have built over 5 PCs in the last 3 years

Already planning my next one!

10/10 would build again

This is a poorly veiled advert.

No comment. Also Hi Reddit

I will never stop building my own PC's.

Definitely! I'm set for the next few years but when the time comes, I will build my own pc again! :) Hope my answer(s) help(s), best of luck!

You paying? Just send me the parts, and I got you covered.

As long as it's physically possible to build my own I will.

Maybe I'll build a dedicated entertainment system capable of VR and media for a family room.

Absolutely, also, I plan on building computers for my family when they need to upgrade.

Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes!

I have around a hundred computer builds to my name, granted most are mITX thin clients, still those save \$50+ vs prebuilt

About once every two years!

I plan on building another over the summer for my girlfriend.

Nice poll

I'm planning on switching to an ultrabook + external graphics card (via Thunderbolt 3) combo once it becomes more popular, my current build should see me through until that happens.

I'm also building a keyboard yay

wait wat

I am going to present a corporate video for Hamilton Waterways! Kiss my face.

PC IS GOD

I build PC's almost weekly at the computer shop I work at.

Have a nice day :)

I might if it's easy, but if not i rather buy one

I have built 2 so far and might build a third

I've built 6 systems so far and will keep building them

Been building my own PC's for over 10 years now, it's always fun and can sometimes be a challenge. Currently as a student I had to build something on a tight budget so I could still have a gaming rig but in a smaller case to save some space (Thermaltake Core V21). There's just no other way for me now.

I have built 6 PCs within two years.

Currently in the process of replacing my old one.

I've built 2

I would build one every day if I could afford it.

I will probably never stop building, its a great hobby.

Why are you hiring

I can't wait to start another build in a year or 2.

No comment

If I had the money, absolutely I would build

Without a doubt I will.

Have built for others as well

i pump iron and frames

Either for myself or a friend/family member but most likely the latter and I don't see myself building another personal rig. If I do find myself doing so, as long as the technology is still good, I will try to reuse some of my current components in the new build (ultrawide monitor, perhaps gtx 1070, and case).

It was a fun 1st-time process. I feel confident that I can research and build my next PC even faster, especially after building my 1st PC.

Sure, I even help family and friends no (make some money back while doing it too!)

Building my own computer made me "proud", in lack of a better word. Every time I turn it on, it feels good, because it's something I put together myself. I picked the parts, I put them together, and it works!

I always have a fluid build list ready to go

Thank you

Prebuilts have never been a good deal unless it's for >300. Custom builds or build yourselves are the only route to really go.

I am planning on upgrading soon, and that might involve building a new system all-together.

Mine is now 4 years old.

My pc build was December 2015

Why is this even a question?

Amazing fun to build a PC

I have built 2 for myself and 4 for my friends

pcmr

You bet your ass I will

I'd happily do it for others that I know.

Best of luck!

Building a full RGB PC from RAM to PSU to MoBo

I'm dreaming of another and better build already!

Would love to if I had the money

It's bad but like simulation games you want to try again with all you learnt the first time.

I will build my own computers until I am no longer physically able to do so

Will probably have a better experience if i get a CPU cooler that does not have a bad installation process.

I most likely wont be able to but it's great fun

Always custom forever

As mentioned, I consider myself addicted now.

Hardest part of eating a vegetable? The wheel chair

Most Certainly

Someday, I'll have the money and desire to buy the parts and assemble my pc myself...

I'll build a system just for the thrill, even if I don't use it or tear it down the next day.

I will never buy a pre-built system again unless its cheaper than what I can get all the parts

Good luck on the results.

Stores like MicroCenter offering high-quality pre-builts, with HQ parts might be easier/more time/cost effective when time comes for next gaming PC

Doing a full upgrade right now with Ryzen!

Soon

Planning to build another in the next couple years. I was even thinking of starting my own custom build company, or at least offering my services as a custom PC builder/buyer/IT as a side-job.

Sure I love toast

I've built 3 now and will definitely be building others

If the need arises. Does continual upgrades count?

Very enjoyable process

I have built 3 PCs for other people since I built the one I'm using now, which was my first

I won't be purchasing off-the-shelf systems again. A well priced custom build will easily outperform an off-the-shelf system.

A thousand times yes.

Hi mom

yes

Absolutely. I loved the challenge and the learning. If I didn't already love my job writing software I'd consider a professional career in some form of computer hardware.

Just last month I build a mATX tower for/with a good friend.

In a culture of possibility, everything is impossible until it's not.

I've built three PCs in the last 5 years and plan to build again in a year or two.

There is no feeling better when it comes to owning a PC than being able to say "I made this."

I would love to PC build for a living. The experience and notable bang-for-your-buck is the major selling point for me.

I plan out a new build every once in a while even though it's years down the line.

My current PC I've built is 6 years old already and it's just starting to show it's age, I'm probably going to build new in 6 months to a year.

Hands down. I will be in a few months for my little brother.

Often build them as part of my job.

I'm planning on building another one very soon, waiting on a few remaining parts.

Many more times, already have new upgrades planned!

I would and i have.

...and again after that!

It was fun. It would be more rewarding with a higher budget.

Yes again

If you have the time and the will, build it yourself.

If I had the money...

I know so much more now after this first build. If i could, I wish I could start all over.

and for friends, for free

I have build an entirely new PC for my brother

In a heartbeat

I will only ever build my pcs for the rest of my life.

Enjoyable process

Only way to get a good PC.

build it

Heck. Yes. Wanna build a Ryzen one but I'm sure it won't happen anytime soon. Mine is still going strong.

but money

I would never not build a PC again.

I'm planning my next build now (SFF gaming rig)

It's quite fun, so probably. I don't see me building a computer from scratch happening anytime soon though. I'm more likely to just upgrade my current rig.

Sorry, and thanks, Sam.

Good survey. Good luck with your results! Post some feedback on Reddit if you can, I'm interested in the opinion of others.

don't know of a better way to have a pc.

I'm planning on buying and building a new pc in the next month.

Hope you enjoyed my comments as much as I enjoy making them. See you tonight sexy. (☺)

☺)

Next time, just be honest about this being market research.

In the middle of my third major upgrade.

Any day, everyday.

No need

Depends on your definition of "build again." Bit of a Ship of Theseus dilemma here.

Already have, a few dozen times.

Ever since I learned how to, I've always built my own computers. I don't see a reason to stop now!

200% yes!! It's so much fun and the reward is even better. I'm planning on building a home file server in the near future.

I'm already building my 3rd.

Always and ever

Good luck. Don't forget to share the results of the survey.

It's not a hobby, it's a compulsion!

Im already eyeing a build set of over \$1K

I've built 6 PC's, all for gaming, in the past 10 years or so.

Will only buy self-built

I actually do ot freelance. Have about 15 builds

Already helped a few friends build one.

This would be a nice way for someone with little experience or understanding of the current PC component system. As an advanced user, I like the idea of a modular device but I know it will cause the components to be much more expensive. The extra cost wouldn't be worth it at all to me.

I'd build them again for myself and anyone else that wants one for the cost benefit.

I feel like I needed to explain the reasoning of almost all my answers. Computers are complicated.

If i can afford to then definitely

I would build a PC again because I really enjoy it.

tacos are yummy

I have built several more pcs for friends that werent confident enough to built them themself, most of them told me they would build them next time they upgrade their rig

If laptops were sufficiently customizable, I'd do that, too.

Don't think I'll switch back to premade unless I need a laptop.

The thrill of building a pc is awesome.

With asus parts

1000%

Number of daily responses

