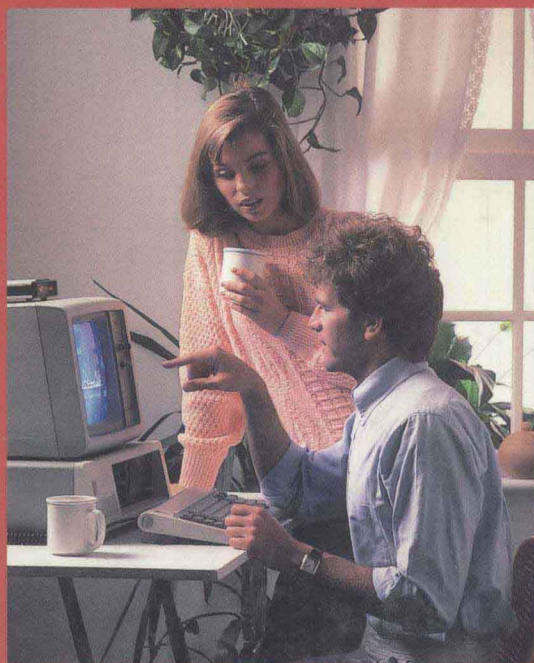


Welcome to...



PERSONAL COMPUTERS

KRIS JAMSA



Welcome to Personal Computers

Kris Jamsa



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ISBN: 1-55828-188-6

10 9 8 7 6

Printed in the United States of America

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Dedication

To Kellie—

May you find the vision to see the right path,
the desire to take one step more,
the strength to get up if you fall,
and the belief in yourself I have in you.

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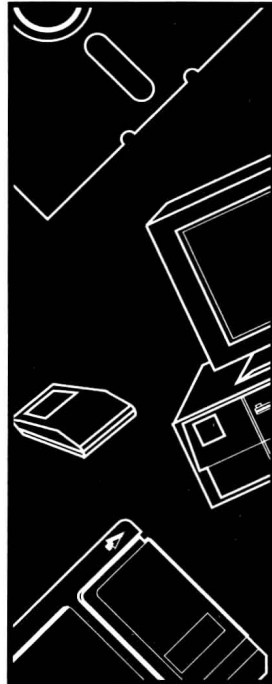
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Lesson 1

Getting to Know Your Computer



Everyone is understandably nervous when they decide to learn how to use a computer. After all, computers are very powerful devices, involved in almost every part of our lives. Most new cars, television sets, and microwave ovens use a computer. Luckily, you don't have to be a computer programmer to watch your TV, you just have to know a few basics.

As you will find, once you learn a few fundamentals about the personal computer (we'll call it a PC for short), you will replace your computer fears with confidence. Remember, just as you don't need to be an auto mechanic to drive your car, you don't need to be a scientist to put your computer to work.

This lesson introduces you to the PC. You will learn about the computer's three major parts: the system unit, monitor, and keyboard, and the differences between computers such as the IBM PC and Macintosh. You will also learn what is meant by hardware and software, and lastly, we will take a look at a computer buyer's guide.

The PC's Three Major Parts

Regardless of the computer type, all PCs consist of three major parts: a system unit (sometimes called the chassis), a monitor, and a keyboard. Figure 1.1 shows these three parts for two different types of IBM PC compatible computers.

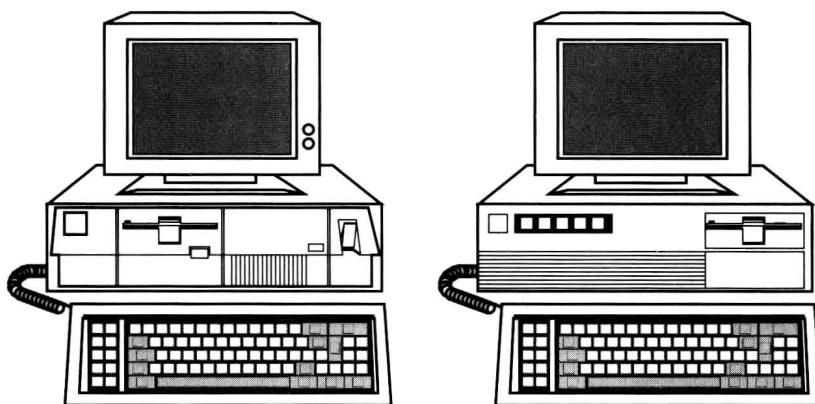


Figure 1.1 The system unit, monitor, and keyboard for two types of IBM PC compatible computers.

Although this book's discussion focuses on IBM compatible personal computers, many of the concepts we'll discuss relate to other computer types such as an Apple II or Macintosh. Figure 1.2 illustrates the three primary computer parts for these two types of computers.

Understanding the System Unit

A computer, like your television or stereo contains powerful electronics. Most of these electronics reside within the system unit. The computer's powerful central processing unit (it's electronic brain,