Chapter 20

REVIEWING THE BASICS

1. Why are notebooks usually more expensive than PCs with comparable power and features?

Notebooks cost more than desktop PCs with similar features. They use thin LCD panels instead of CRT monitors for display, compact hard drives that can withstand movement even during operation, and small memory modules and CPUs that require less voltage than regular components. In general, it costs more to make similar components that take up less space and require less power.

2. What are four types of SO-DIMMs used in a notebook?

72-pin SO-DIMMs, 144-pin SO-DIMMs, 200-pin DDR SO-DIMMs, 200-pin DDR2 SO-DIMMs

3. List three types of batteries that might be used on notebooks.

Ni-Cad, NiMH, Lithium Ion, fuel cell

4. What are three ways a notebook can receive its power?

AC adapter, DC adapter, battery

5. What component that is part of the LCD panel assembly might be responsible for the LCD panel showing dim screens?

Video inverter card.

6. What is the thickness of a Type I PC Card? Of a Type III PC Card?

Type I cards can be up to 3.3-mm thick and are primarily used for adding RAM to a notebook PC. Type III cards can be up to 10.5-mm thick, which is large enough to accommodate a portable disk drive.

7. What term refers to a PC card you can remove and replace without powering off?

Hot-swappable

8. What two services must an OS provide for a PC card to work?

A socket service and a card service

9. What is the small cord sometimes found on the end of a PC card called?

A dongle or a pigtail

10. What applet in the Windows 2000 Control Panel do you use to stop a PC card before removing it? In Windows 98?

Add/Remove Hardware applet, PC card applet

11. How do you solve the problem when a Windows XP notebook hangs after a PC card has been removed while the notebook was in sleep mode?

Update the notebook with the latest Windows XP service pack.

12. What type of memory module used in notebooks has 160 pins?

SO-RIMM

13. List 10 devices that a notebook manufacturer might consider to be field replaceable units.

Possible answers: memory, hard drive, LCD panel, CPU, motherboard, keyboard, PC card socket assembly, CD-ROM drive, floppy drive, sound card, pointing devices, AC adapter, battery pack, and DC controller

14. Why is understanding the warranty on notebooks so important?

It is because some warranties are void if you make certain changes to the system, such as upgrading or replacing a hard drive.

15. What is the purpose of a DC controller on a notebook?

It converts voltage to the CPU core voltage.

16. What happens if the battery on your PDA discharges?

You lose all the data and applications on the PDA.

17. What are the two most popular operating systems currently used by PDAs?

Windows Mobile and Blackberry

18. What is the difference between a port replicator and a docking station?

A port replicator only provides ports for convenience when a notebook is sitting on a desk. A docking station provides the same function as a port replication plus some secondary storage devices such as an extra hard drive or floppy drive.

19. Which notebook component is most likely to be the easiest to replace, the hard drive or the LCD panel?

Hard drive

20. What are the three types of Mini PCI cards? How many pins does each type card have?

They are Type I, II, and III. Type I and II cards have a 100-pin connector and Type III cards have a 124-pin connector.

21. What is the purpose of the Multilink Channel Aggregation feature of Windows?

To allow you to use two modems and two phone lines to effectively double the data throughput rate

22. If you need to replace a hard drive in a notebook, why is it best not to use a standard Windows XP setup CD to install the OS on the new drive?

It is because the notebook needs a customized installation of Windows. Use the Windows Recovery CD that comes with the notebook to install the OS.

23. How is the best way to identify a notebook so that you can find the right documentation for the notebook on the manufacturer's Web site?

Look for the model and serial number of the notebook stamped on the bottom.

24. If you need to install an external peripheral to take the place of a failed internal component in a notebook, what do you first do to disable the internal component?

Use CMOS setup to disable the component.

25. List the ways that a PDA can connect to a PC to synchronize with it.

A PDA can synchronize with a PC through the USB or serial port or using a wireless connection.

THINKING CRITICALLY

1. Your friend has a Windows 98 notebook computer and has purchased Windows XP and installed it as an upgrade on his notebook. He calls to tell you about the upgrade and says that he cannot connect to the Internet. His notebook has an embedded modem that he uses for communication. What do you tell him to do?

a. Reinstall Windows 98.

b. Using another computer, download and install the Windows XP modem drivers from the notebook manufacturer's Web site.

c. Search the CDs that come with the notebook for Windows XP modem drivers and install them.

d. Perform a clean install of Windows XP.

The problem is that he has not installed Windows XP drivers for the on-board modem. Locating the right drivers on the notebook manufacturer's Web site might be a chore if he has problems identifying the modem. The notebook's drivers CD for Windows 98 is unlikely to contain XP drivers. The best choice is to attempt to use the Web site of the notebook manufacturer to identify the modem and locate the XP drivers for the modem.

2. A friend asks you for help in determining the best product to buy: a notebook, tablet PC, or PDA. She is a paralegal and spends a lot of time at the courthouse researching real estate titles. She wants a device to take notes with as she works. List three questions you would ask her to help her make her decision.

Possible answers:

- How extensive are the notes you want to take?

- What type of notes do you take (text, drawings, or both)?

- How much money do you want to spend?

- Do you type faster than you write?