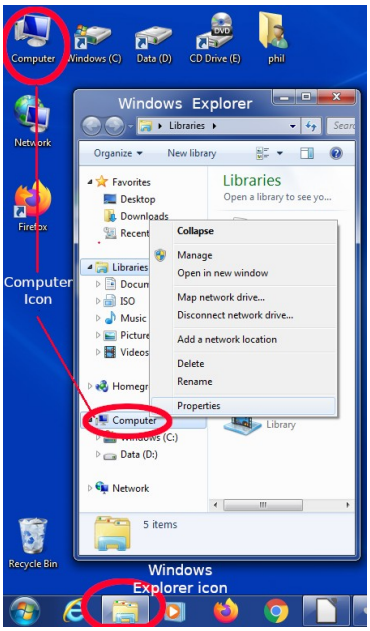
TRIAGE UNIT
TOPIC 5 – WORKSHEET 1
HARDWARE ASSESSMENT
USING MS WINDOWS UTILITIES

The Microsoft Windows environment does not have one, easy to access and easy to read program that displays all the computer's hardware in one place. There are probably command line utilities now available but that falls outside of the scope of this course.



Easy and Fast

The quickest way o find the microprocessor and RAM information in a computer running Windows is open the "System" page of the "Control Panel." There are many ways to get to the System page depending on the version of windows but the most universal method is the following:

1a. Right click the "Computer" icon on the desktop, then select "Properties" in the drop down window.

1b. If there is no "computer icon on the desktop, ope the Windows Explorer (the icon is in the task bar on the lower left side of the screen). Then right click the "Computer" icon in the left panel and select "Properties" in the drop down window.

2. the "Control Panel" "System" window will open and the "Processor" and "Installed Memory" will be listed in the "System" section of the window.

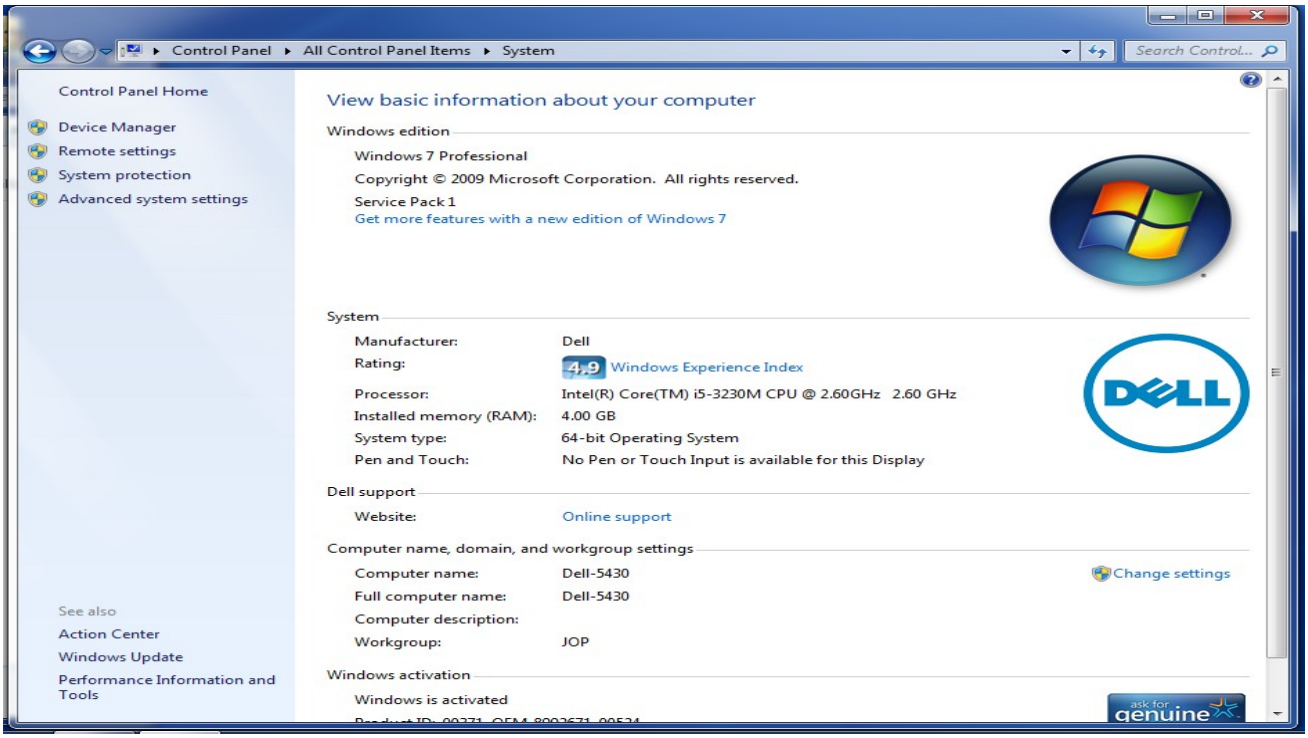


Figure 1: Control Panel System page

Other System Hardware

If you want to see all the installed hardware in your computer you can open the "Device Manager." To open the "Device Manager:"

1. Look in the top-left corner of the "Control Panel System" page
2. Click on the first selection, "Device Manager"

Complete & Detailed Information

The Windows program that displays all computer hardware in detail is Msinfo32.exe. This program is great because it gives you detailed information about all computer hardware and software environment. It is also painful because the information is often hard to find. But if you want "One Stop Shopping" for all your computer's components, type "***system information***" in the Text Box next to the "Windows" button in the lower left corner of the Windows Desktop. (you can also type ***msinfo32***)

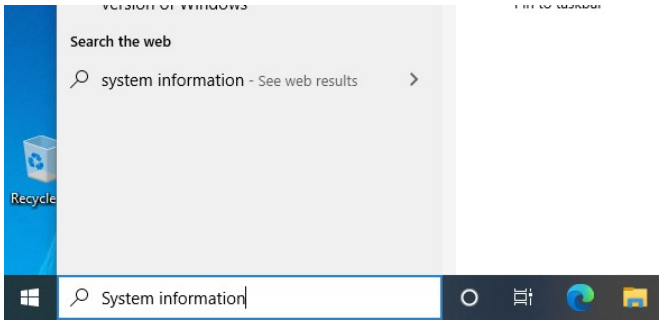


Figure 2: Start Button Text Box

When the Msinfo32.exe program opens, all the categories of hardware and software will be listed in the column on the left. Individual items and their settings are displayed on the right.

The System Information window opens in the system summary page (notice the blue category in the top left). About halfway down you will find the computer's processor and RAM information (circled in red).

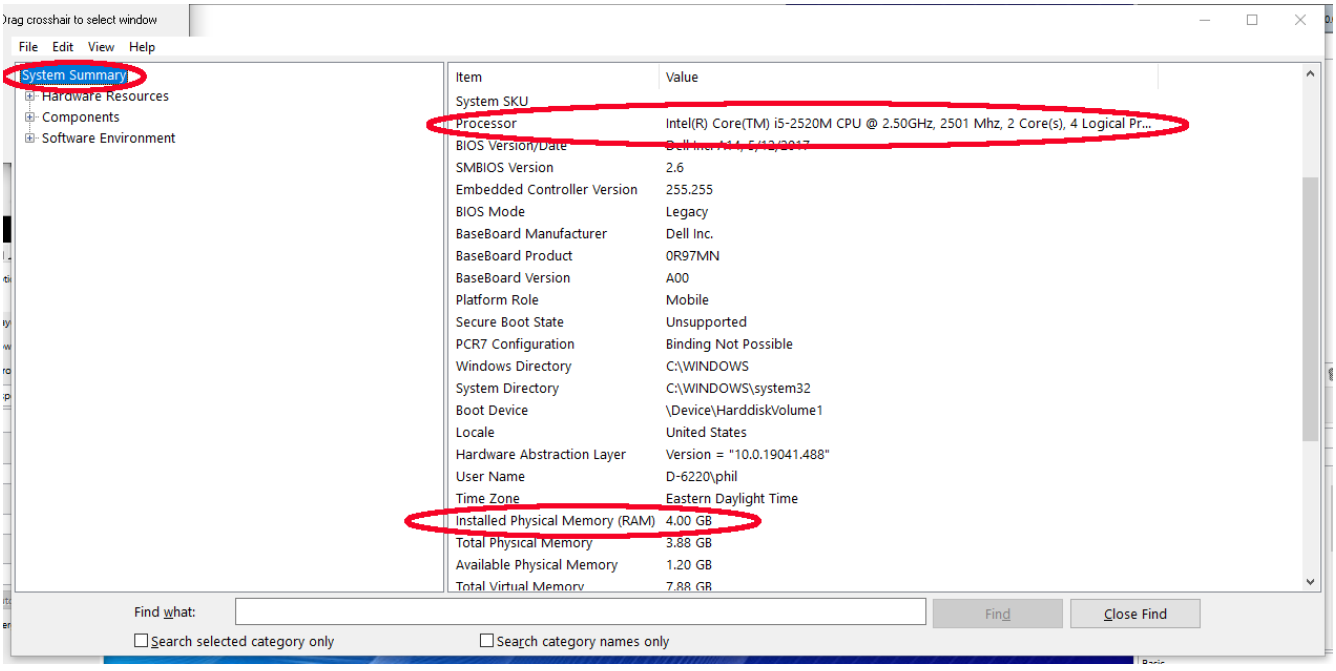


Figure 3: MSinfo32 System Summary Page

To find the computers hard drive information, you must navigate through the Components → Storage → Disks categories in the left panel to open the window. The Components category also shows many other devices in your computer such as network, display, and audio adapters.

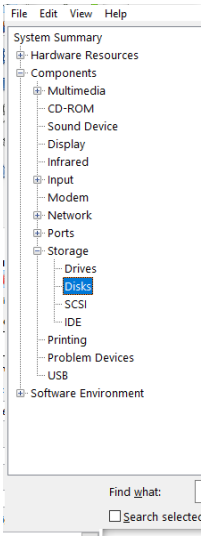


Figure 4: Navigate to Disks page

Questions:

Which Windows Utility described in this worksheet did you find most useful? _____

Why? _____

Which Windows Utility described in this worksheet did you find least useful? _____

Why? _____

Give one example where you might need go know about the hardware / components of your computer.

_____

_____