Motherboards

An IDT Tour

Super I/O controller

BIOS dual

PCI slot

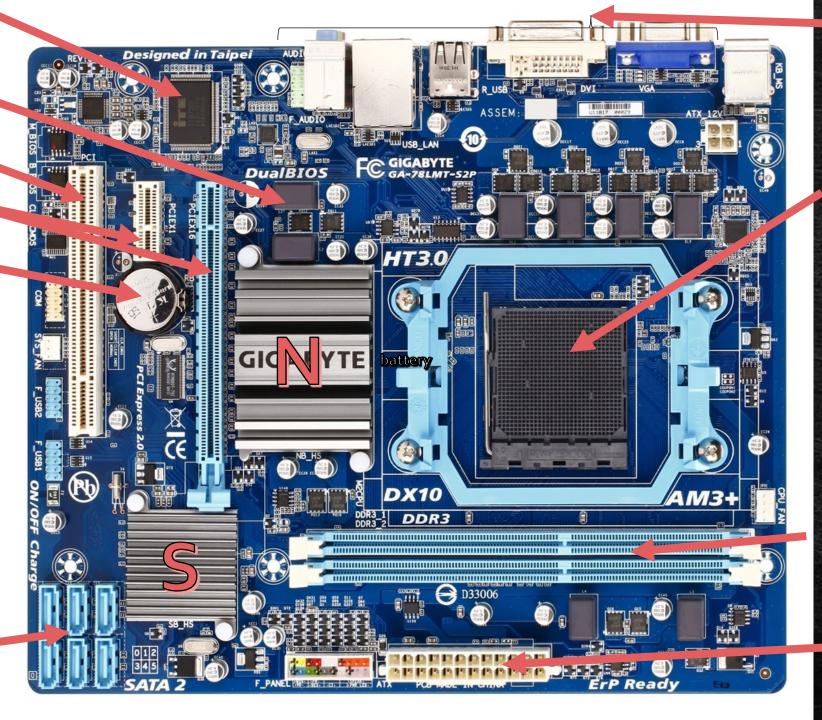
PCI-e slots

CMOS battery

hridge

S bridge

SATA ports



Device connectors

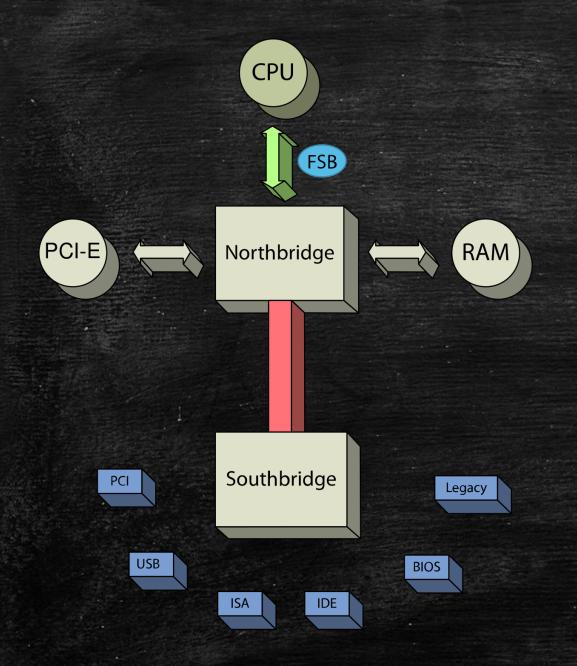
CPU

slot

RAM

slots

Power connector



North

CPU RAM PCI-E

South

I/O Controller Hub
Connects North to:

PCI

USB

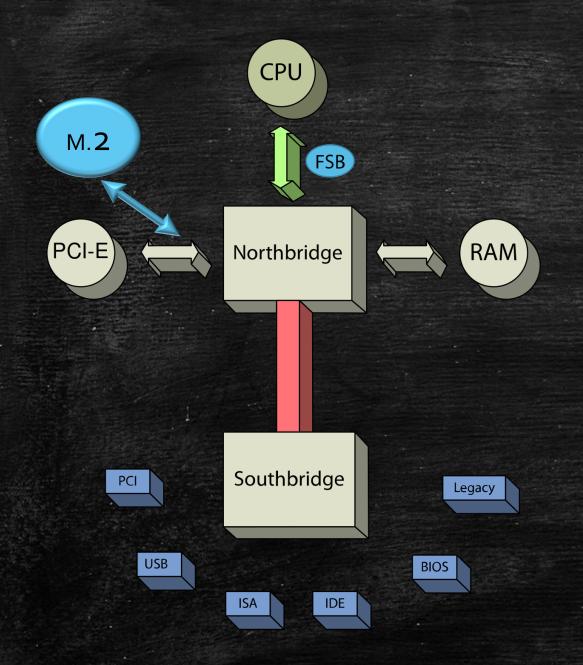
ISA

BIOS

HDD

Input Devices





North

CPU RAM PCI-E

South

I/O Controller Hub
Connects North to:

PCI

USB

ISA

BIOS

HDD

Input Devices

Terminology

Front Side Bus

PCI

USB

ISA

IDE

BIOS

Legacy Ports

PCI-E

Connects CPU to Northbridge

Peripheral Component Interconnect

Universal Serial Bus

Industry Standard Architecture (16bit)

Integrated Drive Electronics (Hard Drive Bus)

Basic Input Output System

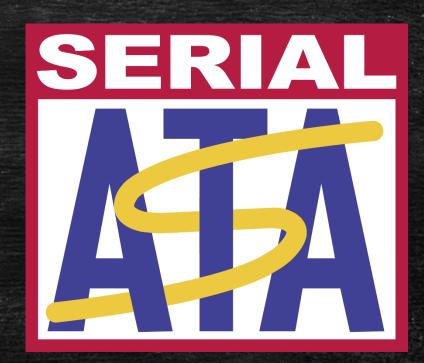
Sound, Microphone, etc.

Peripheral Component Interconnect (express) – Connects graphics card to NB

SATA

Serial ATA

Faster, modern, standard connection protocol for internal drives



Powering Up



Pushing the Power Button On

- 1. Hardware Powers up
- 2. Basic Input Output System (BIOS) or (modern) Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) loads.
 - Loads from the Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) chip which is powered by the CMOS Battery (Holds date/time/settings)
- 3. UEFI/BIOS tests the hardware Power On Self Test (POST)
- 4. (Intel CPUs have Intel Management Engine) because UEFI is like a mini operating system
- 5. System looks for a "Boot Device" normally a hard drive
 - 1. On servers, etc. it can be a thumb drive, system DVD or other storage

Pushing the Power Button On

- 6. Bios looks at the Master Boot Record (Very beginning of the boot device) to run the "bootloader code" which does the job of loading the OS
 - 1. On Windows the bootloader finds the Windows OS loader. This loads the kernel. The Kernel loads the registry then drivers marked "BOOT_START." Next is the session manager (Smss.exe) which loads more drivers, which bring the user to the login screen.
 - 2. On Linux, the GRUB boot loader loads the kernel, starting the init system (systemd). This starts up other services and user processes to the login prompt.
- 7. "Startup programs" actually load after your login.
- 8. Some background services or daemons (Linux and macOS) are started when your system boots.