

Upgrading and Repairing PCs, 16th Edition

Reviewer: Fred Sabin, President, NJCC

ISBN Number: 0-7897-3173-8

Posted at NJCC: <http://www.njcc.org/news/productreviews/>

The New Jersey Computer Club (NJCC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about computer systems, software, and their uses; providing community service to charities and educational groups; awarding an annual NJCC Memorial Award; and sharing knowledge and social activities with other computer enthusiasts. A frequent topic of discussion, and a major need of all of our membership, is how to upgrade, troubleshoot, and repair their computer systems. This book is an excellent guide and reference on everything associated with this topic.

Upgrading and Repairing PCs, 16th Edition, authored by well-known Scott Mueller and published by Que Publishing, is an up-to-date comprehensive (1625 page) book that comes with a three hour instructional and reference DVD, including a searchable hard drive database, vendor database, and eight prior editions of *Upgrading and Repairing PCs* (in PDF format). Detailed technical information is very well presented in an easy to read format with extensive diagrams, figures, and tables that both illustrate concepts and organize historical and statistical data for clarity of understanding and ease of use.

There are two main ways of using this book. First, you can utilize it as a learning tool to gain knowledge about an area of interest, such as a particular component of a computer system. Second, you can utilize it as a technical reference, to find detailed information on a specific computer topic or component. Of major importance is the fact that the text covers not only current data and information, but also historical content on older systems and components that may still be in use.

The chapters on “*PC Diagnostics, Testing and Maintenance*” and “*File Systems and Data Recovery*”, and the “*Troubleshooting Index*” (Appendix C) are of special interest, as troubleshooting problem systems is a significant concern for our membership. The chapter on “*Building and Upgrading Systems*” is also very important for those who need assistance in replacing or adding system components.

The DVD is especially useful with a video presentation by Scott Mueller on *Build a PC From Scratch*. This video includes segments on *Tools To Have On Hand, Chassis Considerations, Processor Installation, Memory Installation, Motherboard Installation, Installing the Drives, Power Supply Connection, Card Installation, Closing the Case, and Power Up the System*. These clips will be valuable to both novice and experienced users. Additional videos and other reference information from prior editions are available at the <http://www.upgradingandrepairingpcs.com/> website.

I have personally used prior editions of *Upgrading and Repairing PCs* for many years, and I have always found the content to be very accurate, informative and useful. I have never read an entire book, but I know what is available in each book and where to find it, and when you need the information it is very satisfying to know that you have it readily accessible.

This book is essential for our User Group personnel who provide technical assistance and support for our membership, and it is very strongly recommended to all our NJCC members as a learning and self help tool for their own benefit. I will therefore be further describing and using *Upgrading and Repairing PCs, 16th Edition* as our main presentation topic at our September 16, 2005, NJCC regular meeting (see our <http://www.njcc.org/> website for details).