

SHOULD I GET A SOLID STATE DRIVE FOR MY COMPUTER?

A solid-state drive (SSD) is a data storage device that uses solid-state memory to store data. SSDs have the same purpose as conventional mechanical hard drives, but there is one crucial difference – they are electronic devices and don't have any mechanical parts. Unlike mechanical hard drives, SSDs don't store data on spinning platters, but use flash memory instead. This means no moving parts, and thus no spin-up speed, which results in shorter boot times. It also means faster read speeds from idle, and faster write speeds for larger files – up to 60 percent faster.

There are other advantages to SSDs. They can be much smaller in physical size than mechanical hard drives, which is helpful when space is an issue. Since there are no moving parts they aren't susceptible to the vibration or drop damage associated with mechanical disk drives. SSDs are a good choice for mobile systems due to their resistance to drops, bumps and g-forces. They also can last two to three times longer than mechanical drives.

The most noticeable disadvantages of SSDs are limited storage capacity (compared to traditional hard drives) and high price. Though SSDs are very fast, when it comes to storage, capacity is very important. This is the area where SSDs cannot compete with hard drives. Another disadvantage of SSD drives is that each flash memory cell on an SSD can endure only so many write cycles. This means that if you subject your SSD to heavy use, its data retention will be shorter than with a conventional hard drive. That's why you should think twice when writing to an SSD.

Should you get an SSD for your computer? If you're a heavy computer user with a powerful system, an SSD might benefit you. Just keep that extra hard drive in your system to store all your extra files. If you're a mainstream or low-end computer user, then I'd recommend that you wait on buying an SSD, as they will become viable options for you when today's high-end systems become tomorrow's low-end systems.