

Graphics Card Recommendations and System Requirements

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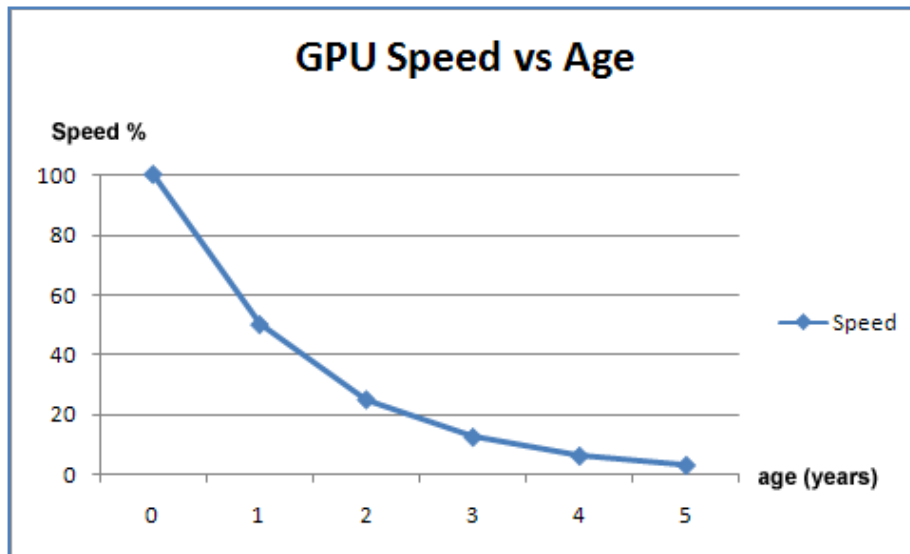
CET Designer comes with the exciting ability to accelerate interactive graphics by using the advanced hardware available in the later generations of graphics cards (GPUs).

Working interactively with a drawing consisting of several hundred workstations in real time requires a powerful computer. Table 1 shows a quick overview of our recommendations.

	CPU	RAM	Graphics Card
Desired	3 GHz	4 GB +	1 GB
Recommended	2.6 GHz	4 GB	1 GB
Minimal	2.2 GHz	2 GB	512 MB

Table 1 - this is just a guide, remember to always check the hardware manufacturers requirement for power supply before buying a high end card/machine. A 64-bit Operating System, such as Windows 7 or Vista 64-bit, is required to fully utilize RAM exceeding 3 GB.

The new graphics engine will work with lower specifications but with greatly reduced speed. Graphics cards have been developing very rapidly, doubling their speed every 12 months. This means that for instance a 4 year old card only has 6% of the capacity of a new card.



If you do not understand all the technical parameters necessary for a powerful PC, please contact CET Support for assistance.

Do not forget to always use the latest *recommended* drivers for your graphics card. Contact CET support for recommendations on certified driver versions or information about known issues.

Technical Details

This is a detailed technical discussion about the specific recommendations for running CET Designer 2.3 with the Advanced Graphics Engine enabled.

There are four major recommendations to keep in mind when looking at a graphics card:

- (1) The card should be based on one of the following Nvidia chipsets: G80, G90, G200
- (2) Run a fast 256-bit wide memory interface with at least 92 pixel pipes
- (3) Carry 1 GB dedicated video memory (minimum of 512 MB)
- (4) NOT be an integrated card or "graphics accelerator". Use of this type of graphics will cause a significant reduction in performance and may result in program related issues.

Following is a list of example existing graphics cards that should be able to run our advanced engine.

It is recommended to always look closely at the specifications of a card as they may differ from one manufacturer to another.

At the moment the GeForce 9-series is considered to be preferable as their drivers are the most stable.

Nvidia

200 Series

GeForce GTX 295
GeForce GTX 285
GeForce GTX 280
GeForce GTX 260

9 Series

GeForce 9800 GX2
GeForce 9800 GTX+
GeForce 9800 GTX
GeForce 9800 GT
GeForce 9600 GT

8 Series

GeForce 8800 GTS
GeForce 8800 GT

Quadro¹

FX 5800
FX 5600
FX 4800
FX 4700 x2
FX 4600

Mobile

most of the other cards listed above in their mobile versions, usually noted as such by an "M" at the end of their model name.

1) While Quadro-line graphics cards will work with CET Designer, we do not currently recommend them as they are generally outperformed by all listed GeForce cards when running CET Designer, and currently cost between 5x and 30x as much as the better performing GeForce cards.