

GETTING READY TO GO

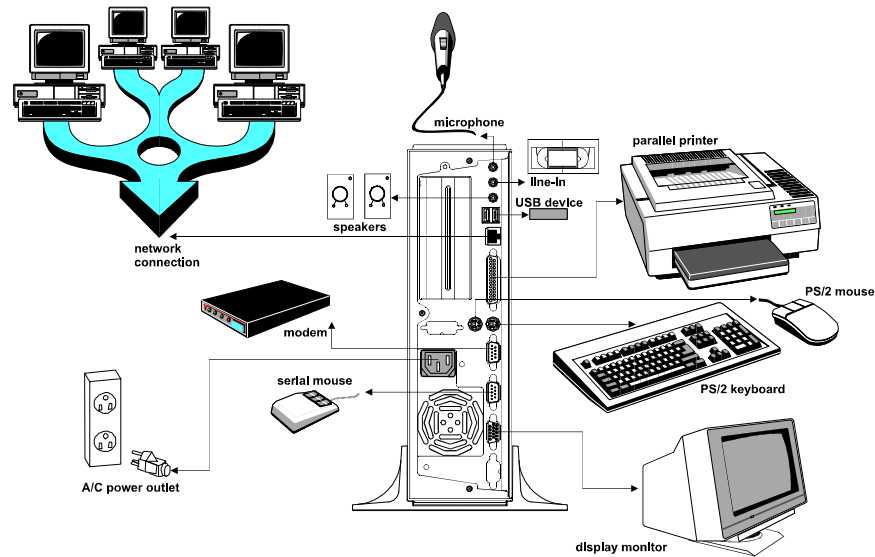
Introduction

This chapter provides you with the necessary information and instructions you need to set up the new **SAHARA** System. This chapter also guides you through starting up the computer for the first time and doing basic operations. Setting up the computer involves the following steps:

- Connecting a display monitor to the computer
- Connecting a keyboard to the computer
- Connecting a PS/2 mouse to the computer
- Connecting any other peripherals that you may have including a printer, a serial mouse, audio equipment or a USB peripheral
- Plugging in and turning on the computer

System Connections

The **SAHARA** System should look like the following figure after all the initial connections are in place.



Operating System

A computer starts up only when there is an **operating system (O/S)** existing on its hard disk or when a system diskette is in its primary drive, normally designated as drive A. Think of the operating system or user interface as the translator between the computer chip and you. The computer chip sits there with its tremendous computing power, but it needs a way to tell you what is going on and you need a way to tell it what you want it to do. You communicate through the user interface.

Most computers are sold with an operating system pre-installed. If this is true of your computer, you can **be sure that the hard disk is pre-formatted and contains the files necessary for booting.**

If the hard disk is not yet formatted and the O/S not yet installed into it, read carefully the related manuals for instructions in the proper hard disk formatting and running of the Setup program of MS-DOS.

The computer automatically loads the O/S after you turn it on. This process is called **booting.**

If you are booting from a system diskette, see the section on Diskette Operations to know how to insert diskettes into the drive.

If you are booting from the hard disk, proceed with the following instructions.

Diskless LAN Station Setup

After completing the system connections described in the Section **System Connections** on page 15. You can link with your local area network by simply following the steps listed in Appendix C.

Power-On Operations

1. Turn on the computer by pressing the power button.

Each time the system power is turned on, the system runs a series of tests, commonly referred to as POST (Power-On-Self-Test) which checks the status of major computer devices that include the mainboard, memory, video, keyboard, and disk drive. Some status messages of POST appear on the screen.

POST compares the current hardware setup status with the default configuration information pre-entered into the system BIOS Setup. (See Chapter 4 for details on the BIOS Setup settings.)
2. When POST detects a mismatch between the actual hardware configuration and the BIOS Setup default settings, error messages indicating invalid configuration appears on the screen. Normally, the message specifies the cause of the problem, thereby giving you a hint on how to fix the problem.

When you see such an error message, refer to Chapter 5 on Troubleshooting Tips in this manual to know how to solve the problem. If the error message persists or if the problem is not discussed in the Troubleshooting Tips chapter, consult your dealer or a qualified service technician for assistance.
3. When no mismatch is found and POST successfully completes its check, the computer first tries to boot from drive A. If there is no diskette in drive A, the computer boots from the hard disk, usually designated as drive C.

When the computer boots from the hard disk that has an operating system properly installed on it, the system prompt, usually the **C:>** prompt appears.

The appearance of the **C:>** prompt signifies successful booting or start-up of the system. You could now start installing or using the application programs like MS-Windows.

Diskette Operations

Inserting/Removing Diskettes

Floppy disks are the portable storage system for your computer, similar to file folders for your work. On floppy disks you can store the projects created in the computer, make an extra copy or carry them to another computer.

When you are starting up the system for the very first time, the disk drives probably will have the cardboard head protector inserted into the drive.

1. Remove the cardboard head protector from the disk drive. Press the eject button to pull out the cardboard. Keep the cardboard for future use in case you may have to move the system.
2. If the system does not have a hard disk and an operating system, insert a system diskette (that comes with the operating system diskettes and contains the COMMAND.COM file).

When you insert a diskette in the floppy disk drive (FDD), insert the diskette with the label side up and the metal plate first into the drive until the diskette locks in place.

3. To remove a diskette from the FDD, press the diskette eject button to make the diskette come out partway out of the drive and gently pull out the diskette by hand.



When the system is accessing the drive (indicated by the lit in-use indicator), be careful not to remove a diskette or accidentally press the power button. Doing so may destroy the data on the diskette and may damage the drive mechanism.

Even though the 3.5-inch floppy diskette are encased in a hard plastic coating, they should be treated with care.

Diskette Types

The type of diskette that you can use in a disk drive depends on the drive size. See the following table to know the drive/diskette compatibility features:

DRIVE CAPACITY	DISKETTE DENSITY	READ/WRITE
High Capacity 1.44MB 3.5 inch	High Density	Yes/Yes Yes/Yes*
Standard Capacity 720KB 3.5 inch	High Density Standard Density	No/No Yes/Yes



** To format a standard-density diskette in a high-capacity drive, you must include certain parameters in the formatting command. Refer to the operating system documentation for details. Note that the capacity of a standard-density diskette will not change when it is formatted in a high-capacity drive. A standard-capacity disk drive might not be able to read a standard-capacity diskette that was written or formatted in a high-density drive.*

Backing Up Master Diskettes

Master diskettes are the original diskettes of the operating system or software programs. As a safeguard against unexpected damage or alterations, make back up copies of the master diskettes and use the backup diskettes for everyday operation. Store the master diskettes in a safe place. Consult the MS-DOS or MS-Windows documentation to know how to properly back up diskettes.

The hard disk has a much larger capacity and faster access speed than the floppy disk drive. For your convenience, you are advised to copy frequently-used program files from your MS-DOS or utility diskettes or other application programs into your hard disk so you can run the programs from there.

One of the most important uses of floppy disks is to back up your work so that if anything happens to the copy that is on the hard drive (hard drives can crash and erase all your work) you have a copy. Get in the habit of making backup copies of your work often. Store a copy at another location for extra protection. As folks in the computer world always say, "It isn't a question of *if* your hard drive will crash, only a question of *when*."

Resetting the Computer

You may re-start the system (that is, go through booting and POST operations again) without turning the computer power off and on again. There are two ways to do this:

1. Press the Reset button on the front panel of the system.
2. Press <Ctrl> + <Alt> + keys simultaneously.

Power-Off Operations

If you are using a DOS-based program:

1. Save the data and exit to the system prompt.
2. Remove the diskette, if any, from the disk drive.
3. Turn off the computer by pressing the Power Button.
4. Turn off the power of any connected external devices.

If you are using any MS Windows-based program, make sure you shut it down first before turning off system power:

1. Save and close any open files. Though most programs will remind you to save your work if you forget, taking the initiative to save your work is a good habit to form.
2. Click the Close button for the program window.
3. If you have no unsaved documents, the program closes and you return immediately to the Windows desktop.
4. If you have an unsaved work or a work containing unsaved changes, the program asks you whether to save it. Click on "Yes" to save it or on "No" to abandon it.
5. If you click on "Yes" and the document has never been saved before, the Save As dialog box appears. Name and save your work.
6. To turn off your computer after closing the program, it's very important to shut down Windows first. Click the Start button, then click on the Shut Down option to display the Shut Down Windows dialog box.
7. Click the "Yes" button, then wait until you see the message "It's now safe to turn off your computer." before you turn the computer off.



If you have to turn the computer on again immediately after turning it off, wait for at least five seconds. Turning the computer off and on rapidly can damage it.

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