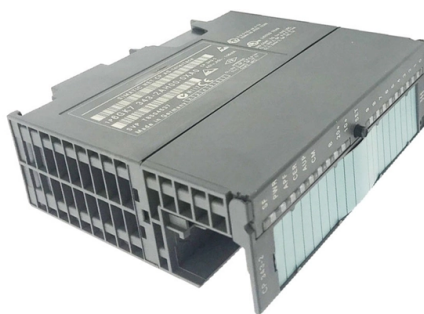


How to calculate the price of an integrated power supply



Overview

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Key Takeaways

The price of an integrated power supply can be estimated by calculating your system's total power requirements, adding headroom, and factoring in efficiency, brand, and form factor.

Step 1: Determine System Power Requirements

Start by calculating the total power draw of your system. Key components include:

- CPU: Modern processors typically consume 65–250 watts, with high-end workstation CPUs exceeding 300 watts under full load .
- GPU: Entry-level graphics cards draw 75–150 watts, mainstream cards 200–300 watts, and flagship models 400–600 watts .
- Motherboard, RAM, and Storage: Motherboards draw 50–80 watts, RAM 3–5 watts per module, and storage drives 2–8 watts each .
- Peripherals and Cooling: Fans, RGB lighting, and USB devices add roughly 20–50 watts . Online PSU calculators, such as those from Newegg, MSI, Corsair, or PowerSupplyCalculator.net, can simplify this process by allowing you to input your components and automatically estimate total system power .

Step 2: Add Headroom

To ensure stability and efficiency, select a PSU with 20–30% more capacity than your calculated maximum load. For example, a system drawing 600 watts should use a 750–850 watt PSU . This headroom accommodates transient spikes, improves efficiency, and allows for future upgrades.

Step 3: Consider Efficiency Rating

PSUs come with efficiency certifications such as 80 Plus Bronze, Gold, or Platinum. Higher efficiency units cost more but reduce electricity consumption and heat output. For high-performance systems, a Gold or Platinum-rated PSU is recommended .

Step 4: Factor in Form Factor and Brand

- Form Factor: ATX, SFX, or SFX-L sizes affect compatibility and price. Small form factor PSUs are often more expensive due to compact design .
- Brand and Warranty: Reputable brands with longer warranties typically cost more but offer reliability and better components.

Step 5: Estimate Price

Once you know the required wattage, efficiency, and form factor, you can check current market prices. For example:

- Budget PSU: 650–750W, 80 Plus Bronze, ~\$60–90
 - Mid-range PSU: 750–850W, 80 Plus Gold, ~\$100–150
 - High-end PSU: 850–1000W, 80 Plus Platinum, ~\$180–250
- Using online calculators like Corsair PSU Calculator or MSI Power Supply Calculator can also suggest specific models and their approximate prices based on your system configuration .

Summary

To calculate the price of an integrated power supply:

- Calculate total system power draw using component specifications or online calculators.
 - Add 20–30% headroom for efficiency and future upgrades.
 - Select efficiency rating (Bronze, Gold, Platinum) based on energy savings and budget.
 - Consider form factor and brand for compatibility and reliability.
 - Check current market prices for PSUs matching your specifications to estimate cost.
- This approach ensures you select a PSU that is both adequate for your system and cost-effective.

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