Subject: Re: Graphics driver n00b
Posted by Chuck Norris on Thu, 16 Aug 2007 13:06:06 GMT
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The Dimension 3000 lacks AGP, and it has ONLY regular PCI. No PCI-Express. In layman's terms, your computer has very little potential in way of video cards. That model was intended as a basic machine. You can install a PCI card, but they will not be high performers and will cost alot for what you actually get.

On PCI, from greatest to worst, here are your options.

ATi Radeon X1300/X1550- The latter is just an improved X1300. Although I prefer nVidia, ATi has the best performance on PCI.
nVidia GeForce 6200- Probably around par, give or take, with a GeForce4 Ti4200, which isn't half bad.
nVidia GeForce 5600
nVidia GeForce 5700LE- "Lesser Edition" of the real GeForce 5700, so the normal GeForce 5600 beats it.
nVidia GeForce 5500- Is basically an overclocked GeForce 5200.
ATi Radeon 9250
nVidia GeForce 5200- SLOW, SLOW, SLOW. I think it sometimes even lost to the GeForce4 MX series cards.

Anything lower (even those near the bottom of the list) will barely outperform your onboard VGA, so don't bother with anything below the GeForce 5500, and even avoid that unless you have to. There's ALOT of things to pay attention to. Namely, avoid any LE or SE cards, becuase they're lower end versions of the "normal" cards becuase they're usually running on 64-bit memory buses, which won't perform well at all. Also, remember, you CAN NOT use AGP or PCI Express cards, so remember that before you buy anything. Normal PCI cards are what you need. That card you pictured above has an AGP connector, so it won't fit or work in your computer.

Some may be rare to find, and others may be expensive, but a GeForce 5600 and above should be enough for Renegade. Just don't expect blazing speeds at high resolutions.