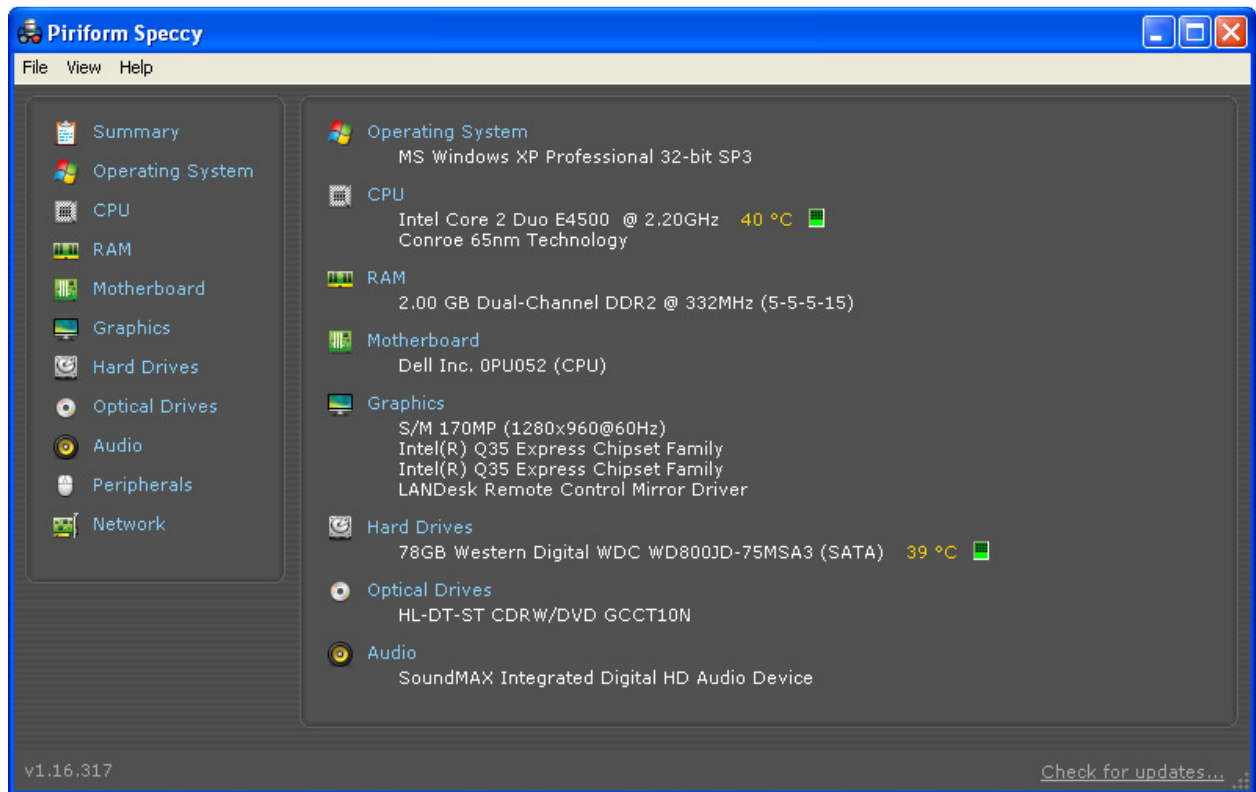


## Using Speccy to Report on Your Computer Components

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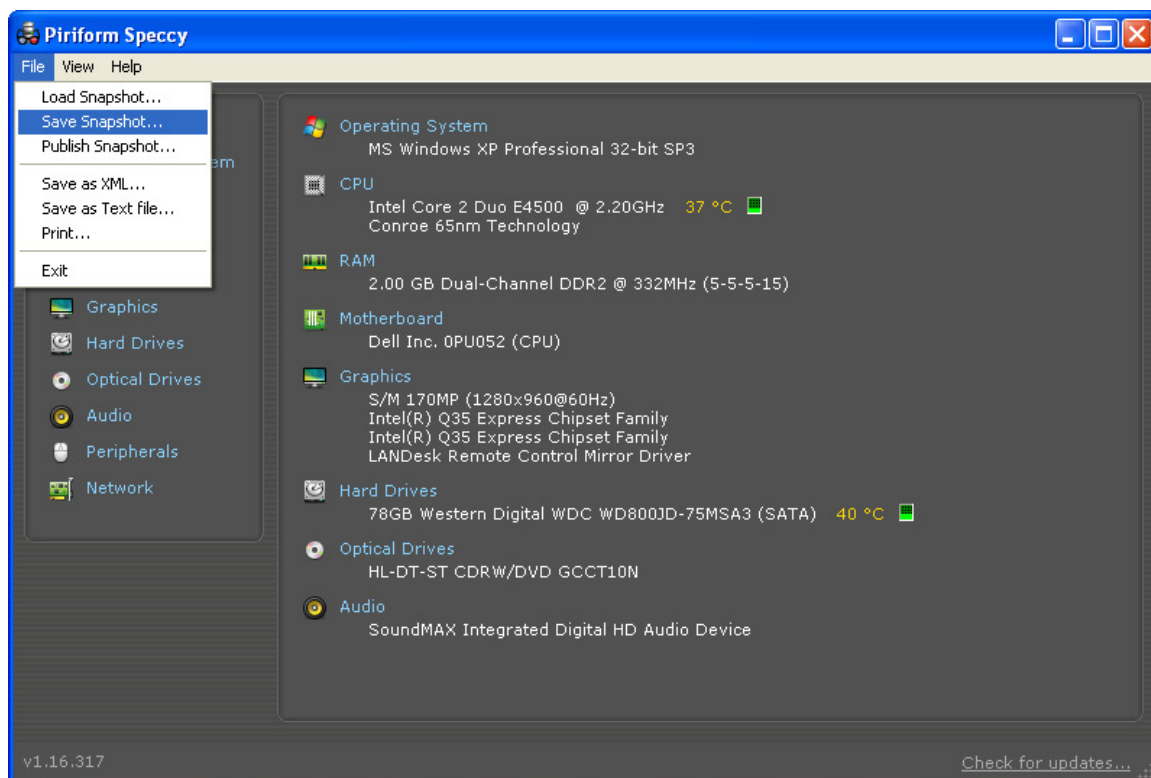
Today we're going to have a look at what I consider to be a useful Windows reporting utility. I'll be talking about Speccy, which is put out by Piriform. As is usual for many free software packages, you can also pay for personal and business support, but with Speccy there doesn't seem to be much need for paid support. You can download both free and supported versions of Speccy at: <http://www.piriform.com/speccy>

We won't go through the download and install process, since it's pretty self explanatory after clicking on the link above. Let's just launch the tool and have a look at what it can show us. We will have a look at the outputs from both Windows XP and also Windows 7 in this document.



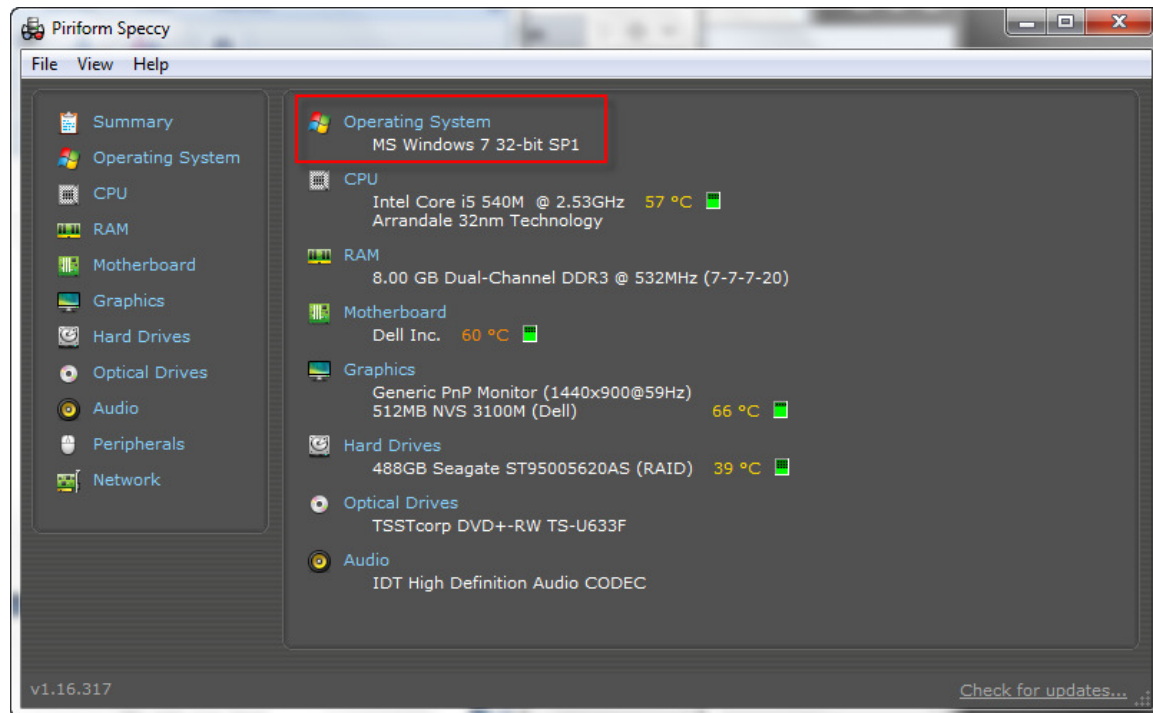
In the screen shot above, we see summary information for a Windows XP, 32-bit machine. Each of the items listed in the left hand panel can be drilled down into for expanded information.

Before we have a more detailed look at some of the components we see summarized, it might be useful to look at some of the general features of Speccy.



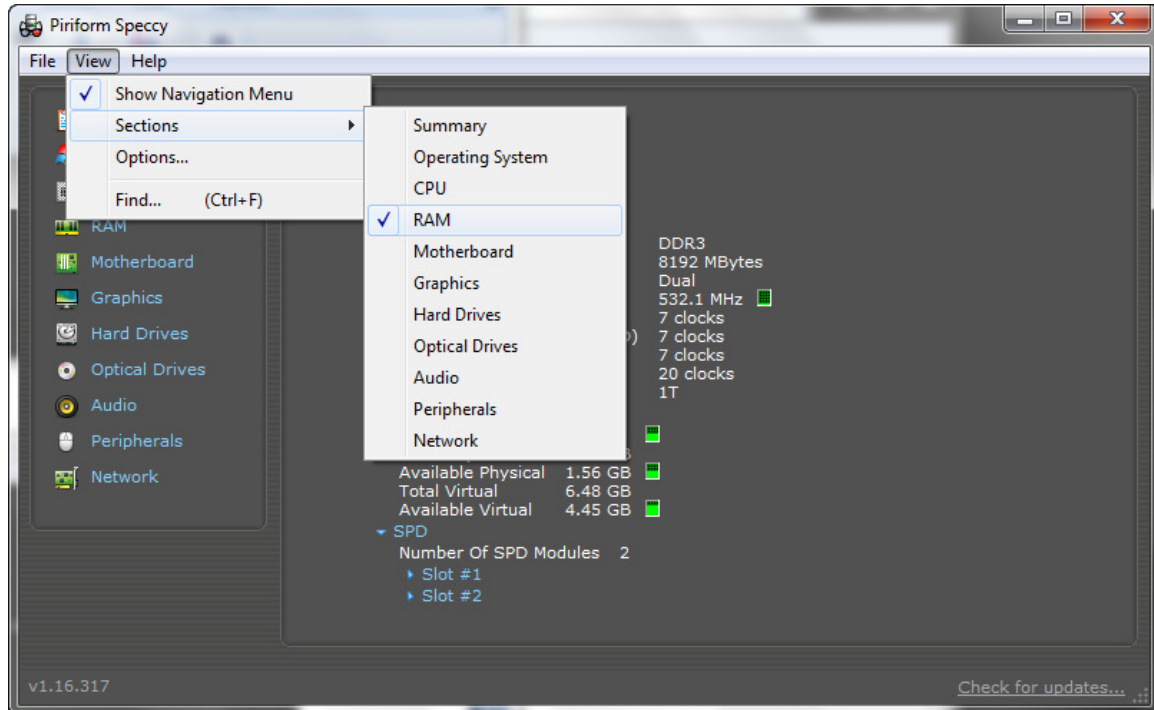
Above we see that it is possible to take a full snapshot of a machine's information. This snapshot can be reloaded later by Speccy for analysis, or comparison with some other snapshot. It's also possible to publish the snapshot to a webpage with the Publish Snapshot... menu choice. This pushes out the data to a webpage at Piriform which can then be browsed by yourself or others. You will need to decide if publishing information in this way is useful or not.

Now have a look at the summary information displayed. We can see details such as the type of OS, along with service pack information. The CPU information includes such details as architecture, speed, current temperature, and even the project code name and die size (65nm) from which the chip was manufactured. Similar amounts of summary detail are supplied for other components, such as for RAM, motherboard, HDD, etc.



In the above screenshot, we see a Windows 7, 32-bit machine. As we would expect, all the components are a bit different. The processor is now an i5, running at 2.53GHz, code named Arrandale, and manufactured with a 32nm die size. Interestingly, although the machine is running a 32-bit operating system, it has 8GB of RAM, a bit of a mismatch. We also note that this machine has a 500GB HDD (shown as 488GB) running at a relatively cool temperature of 39 degrees Celsius.

In the next screen shot, we have a look at some details as we drill down from the summary page.



There are two ways to drill down into the components shown in the summary. One is to use the View -> Sections menu and then select the component that is of interest. Here we see a demonstration of that approach. It is also possible to simply click the item in the Summary panel on the left.

In any case, in the next screenshot, we see the more detailed view of the RAM for this machine.

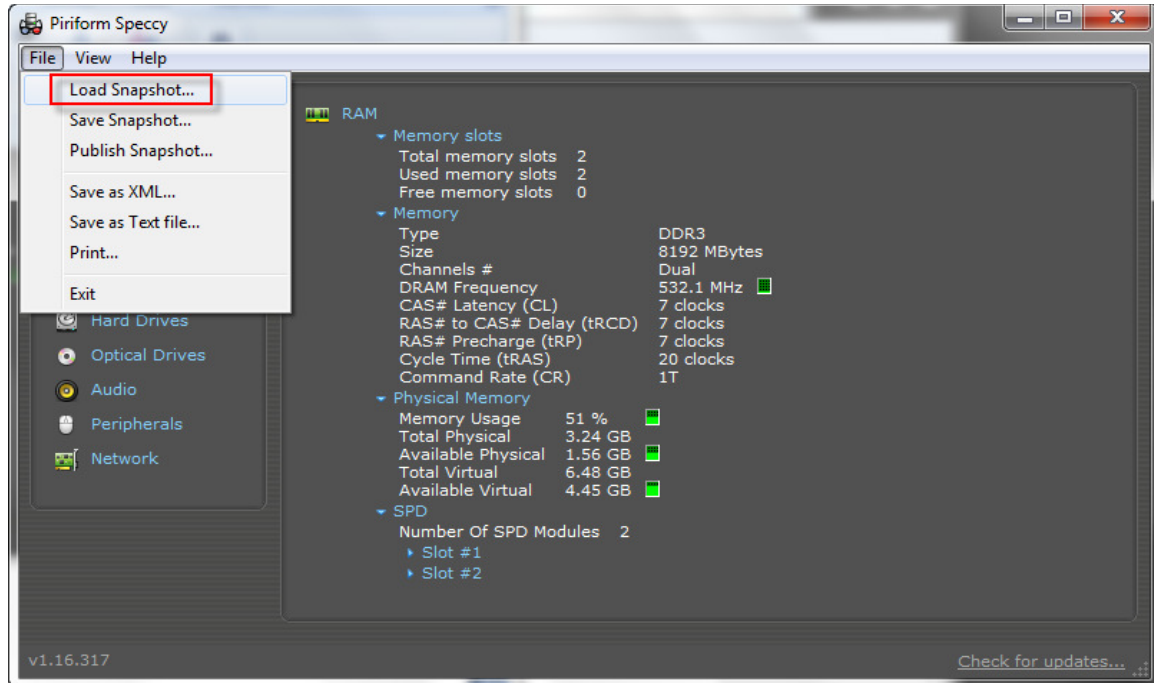


The screen shot above shows more details of the configuration of RAM for this machine. We can see the number of slots, number of slots used/free. Further technical information is also provided regarding memory clocking and usage. And we can drill down even further from this screen. Notice that at the bottom there are expansion indicators for Slots #1 and #2. We see the results of expansion on the next screen shot.

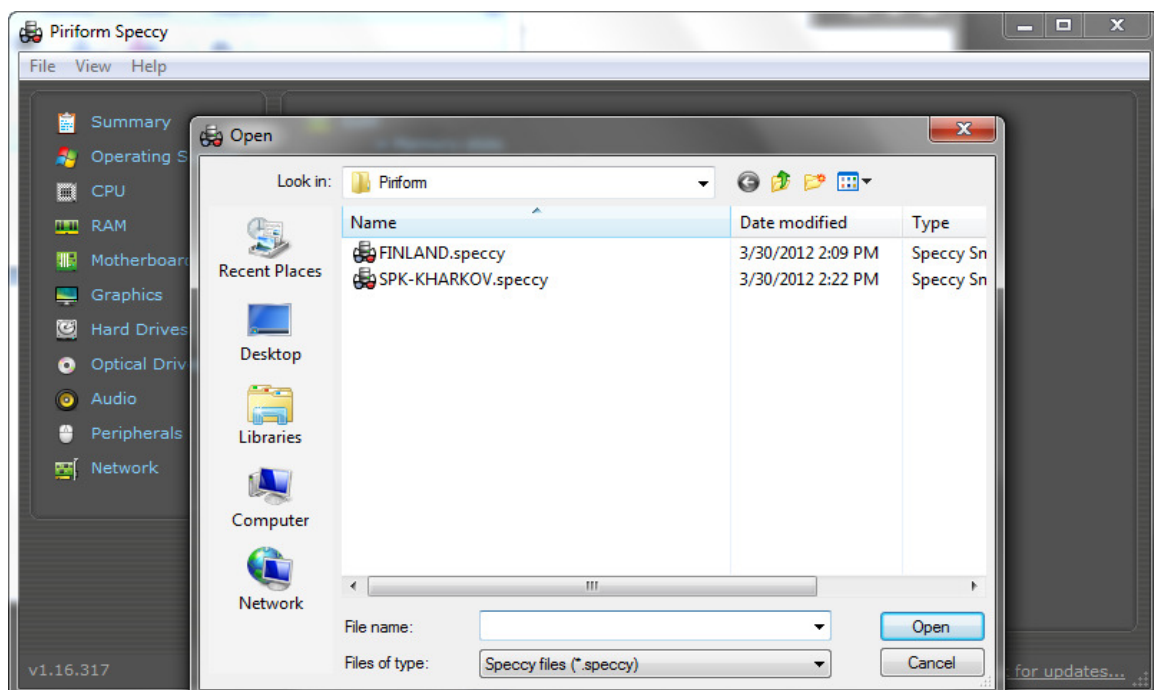


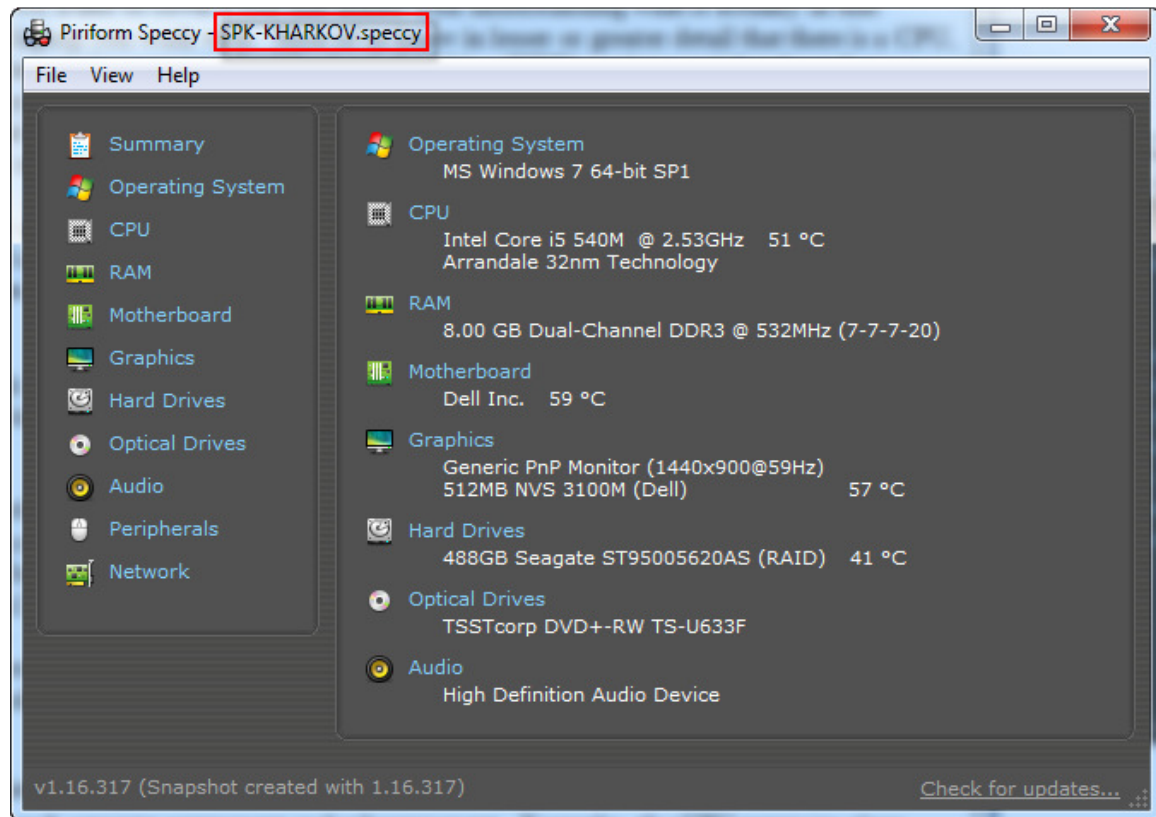
Here we have expanded Slot #1. We can see information related to the DDR3 memory module which is in slot #1. Among the information, the manufacturer is Kingston, the size is 4GB, and it was produced in the 43<sup>rd</sup> week in 2011. Further information is available regarding sub-modules on this memory board as we scroll down further. We will leave the interpretation of the information to the reader.

In the next screen shot, we will use Speccy to load other machine profiles and examine them.



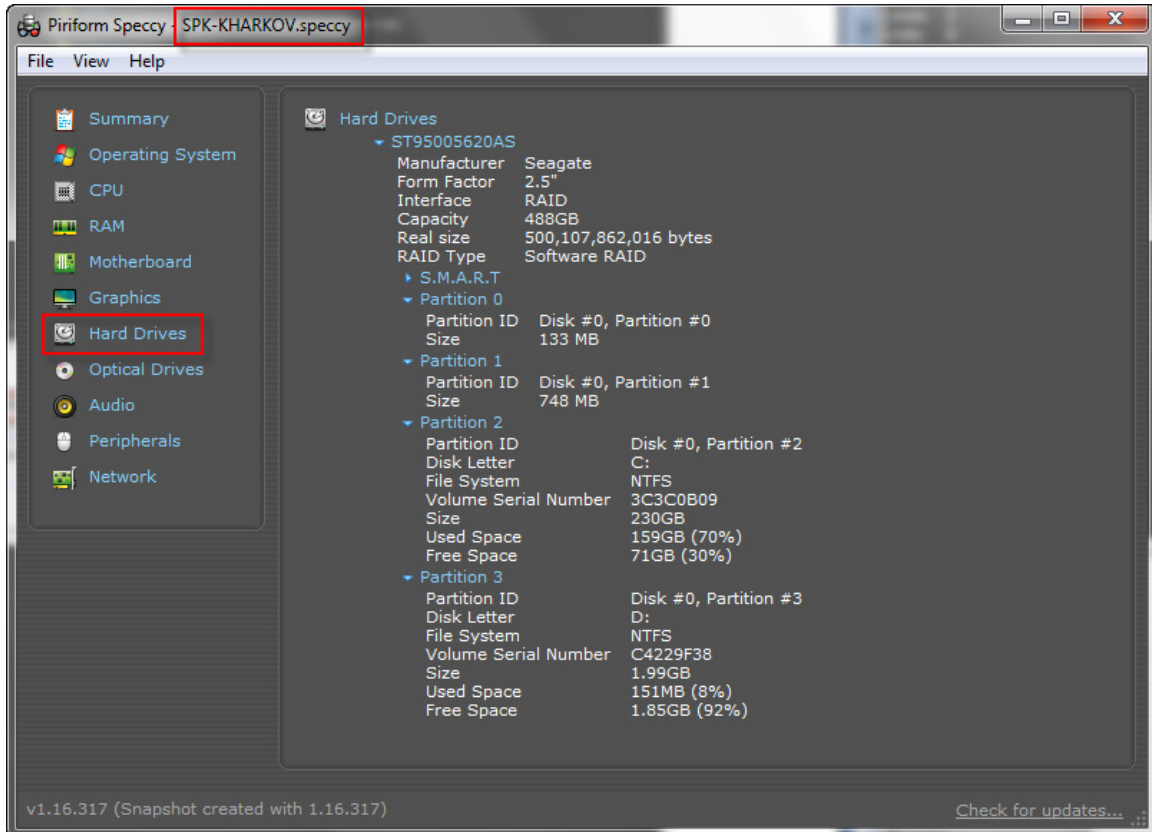
Here we load another previously saved profile for examination. The next screen shot shows the navigation to a folder containing saved machine configurations.





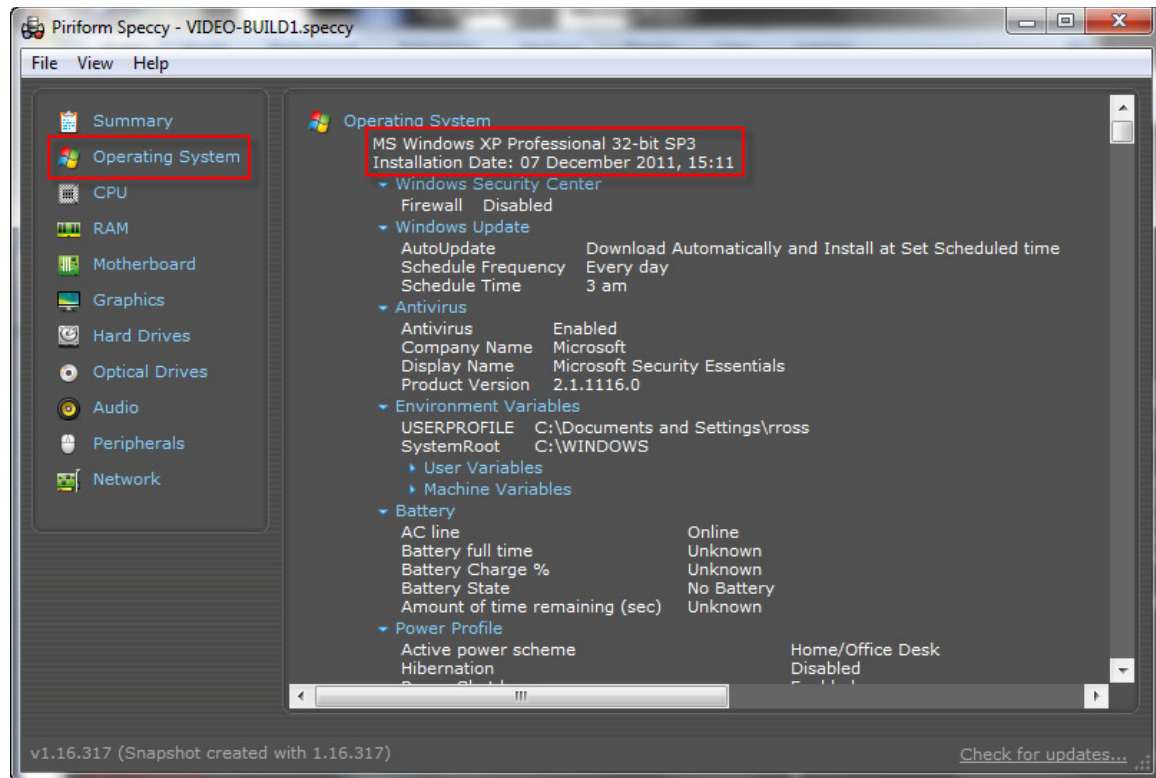
Here we have loaded a machine that is running Windows 7, 64-bit, with service pack 1. Let's drill down into the into the HDD information by clicking on the Hard Drives link in the left hand column. See the next screen shot.





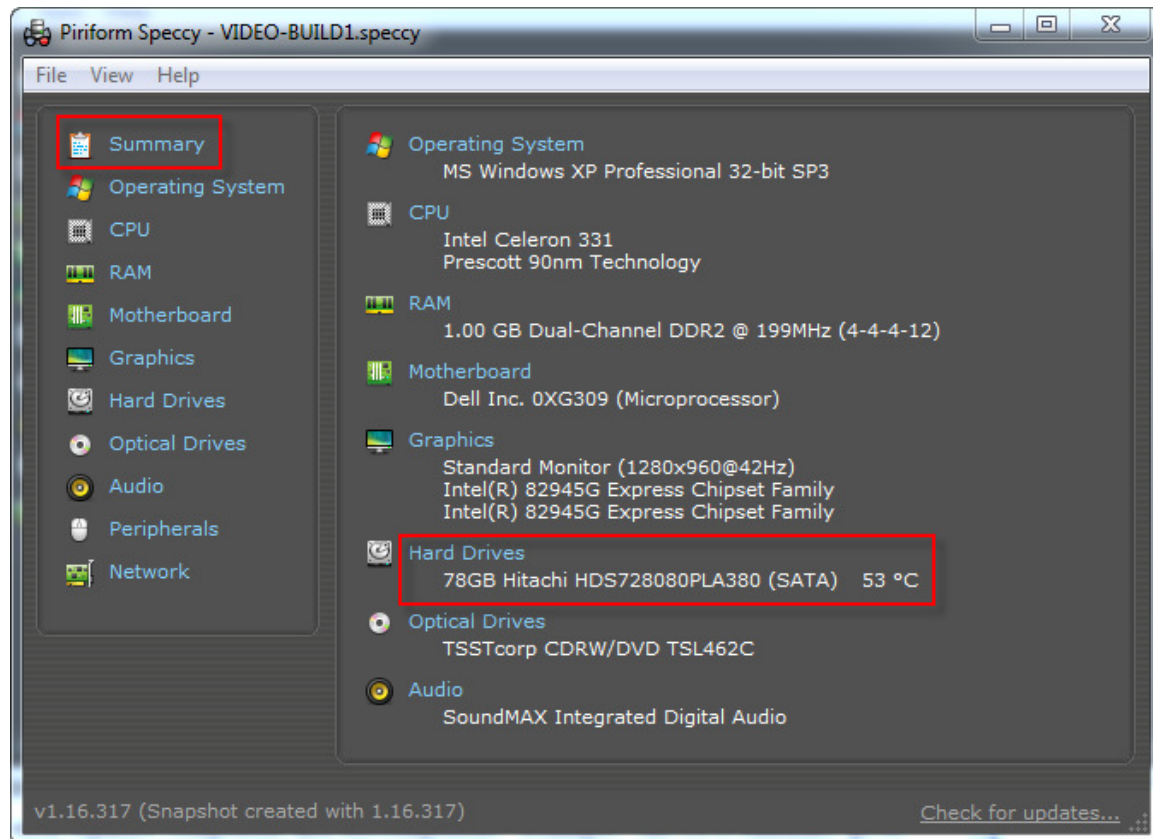
Here we see that we are using a 2.5 inch form factor disk drive (on a laptop computer). The 500GB size is shown as a useable 488GB, and partition information is shown as well. It is possible to drill down into the technical details of S.M.A.R.T. but we leave this for others to look at.

Next we load another machine's configuration. See the next screen shot for information on the VIDEO-BUILD1 machine.



Here we have drilled down into the Operating System for the machine. We see that VIDEO-BUILD1 is installed with Windows XP, 32-bit, service pack 3. Additional information is available, such as that the Firewall has been disabled, Anti-Virus is active, Windows Update is scheduled, along with some environment variables, and much, much further information.

The next and last screen shot will show the summary of VIDEO-BUILD1. We will have a brief look at some points and then make concluding comments.



Here is the summary for VIDEO-BUILD1. We can see that it uses an Intel Celeron CPU, code named Prescott, manufactured using the older and larger 90nm die size. One interesting point here is that this machine's HDD is running rather hot. 50 degrees Celsius is a point where we want to watch that we do not exceed under ideal circumstances. This machine's HDD is running at 53 degrees Celsius. We would not have known this without software like Speccy to inform us of the situation.

At this point, it has been demonstrated that Speccy is capable of displaying large amounts of information about the components inside any particular computer. The information can be interesting, useful, and even important, as in the case where the disk drive is running too hot.

Speccy is a utility well worth downloading and trying out. And the price is right!