

## **BTX**

Balanced Technology Extended (BTX) was designed by Intel in 2004 to combat some of the issues common to ATX. More powerful processors require more power and therefore release more heat. BTX was designed with a more efficient thermal layout. There is a lower profile, and the graphics card is oriented differently than ATX, so heat is generally directed out of the case in a more efficient manner. BTX's future is dim because Intel and AMD processors, and most video cards' processors, are designed to use less power (and therefore generate less heat). BTX devices are not compatible with ATX devices. One of the ways to identify a BTX motherboard is that the RAM slots and expansion buses are parallel to each other. Also, the port cluster is situated differently on a BTX board. In addition, BTX boards are slightly wider than ATX boards; they measure 12.8 inches x 10.5 inches (325mm x 267mm). BTX is not specifically listed on the CompTIA A+ objectives, but you will probably still see these motherboards in existence in the field. You should at least know the basic differences between the ATX and BTX form factors.