



Where did your computer come from?



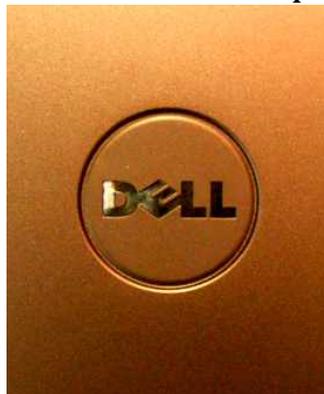
The American writer Thomas Friedman investigated the manufacturing of his computer. He was surprised by quite how many countries were involved with creating the different parts. Just where did all those parts come from? Writing in *The Guardian* newspaper (21 April 2005), Friedman describes the building of his Dell lap-top computer as follows:

“The Intel micro-processor came from an Intel factory either in the Philippines, Costa Rica, Malaysia or China. The memory came from a Korean-owned factory in Korea (Samsung), a Taiwanese-owned factory in Taiwan, a German-owned factory in Germany, or a Japanese-owned factory in Japan.

“My graphics card was shipped from either a Taiwanese-owned factory in China or a Chinese-run factory in China. The cooling fan

came from a Taiwanese-owned factory in Taiwan.

“The motherboard came from either a Korean-owned factory in Shanghai (Samsung), a Taiwanese-owned factory in Shanghai, or a Taiwanese-owned factory in Taiwan. The keyboard came from either a Japanese-owned company in China, a Taiwanese-owned factory in China, or another Taiwanese-owned factory in Suzhou, China. The LCD display was made in either South Korea (Samsung), Japan (Toshiba or Sharp), or Taiwan.



“The wireless card came from either an American-owned factory in China or Malaysia, or a Taiwanese-owned factory in Taiwan or China. The modem was made by a Taiwanese-owned company in China or a Chinese-run company in China.

“The battery came from an American-owned factory in Malaysia (Motorola), a Japanese-owned factory in Mexico or Malaysia or China (Sanyo), or a South Korean or Taiwanese factory in either of those two countries.

“The hard-disk drive was made by an American-owned factory in



Singapore, a Japanese-owned company in Thailand (Hitachi or Fujitsu), or a Japanese-owned factory in the Philippines (Toshiba).

“The CD/DVD drive came from a South Korean-owned company with factories in Indonesia and the Philippines (Samsung); a Japanese-owned factory in China or Malaysia (NEC); a Japanese-owned factory in Indonesia, China, or Malaysia; or a Japanese-owned factory in China (Sony).



“The notebook carrying bag was made by either an Irish-owned company in China or an American-owned company in China. The power adaptor was made by either a Thai-owned factory in Thailand or a Taiwanese, Korean or American-owned factory in China.

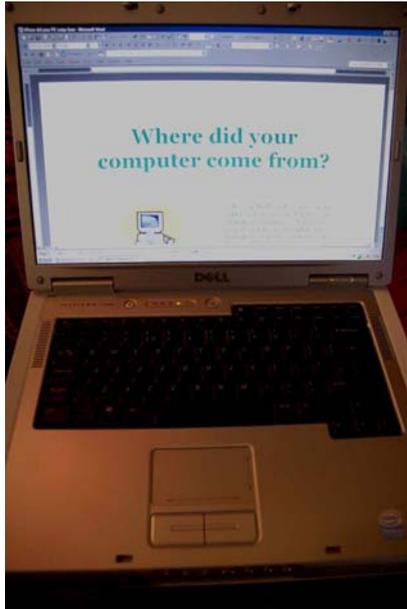
“The power cord was made by a British-owned company with factories in China, Malaysia and India. The removable memory stick was made by either an Israeli-owned company in Israel or an American-owned company with a factory in Malaysia.”

(Adapted from the original *Guardian* Article)



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Questions



1. On the map draw a line from each of the countries where parts were manufactured to the country where they were assembled (USA). (Draw one line per country)
2. How many countries were involved in the manufacturing of the computer?
3. Thomas Friedman said that the LCD display might have been made in a factory in one of three different countries. List those three countries.
4. A factory can be owned by a company in a different country to the one it is situated in. Write down the countries which have Korean-owned factories.
5. Name three countries that have Samsung factories.
6. How would you describe the nationality of your computer?
7. What does this tell us about the relationships between these countries?
8. Write down four other pieces of electrical equipment which may have parts created in other countries.