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If you've ever shopped for processors and motherboards, you would've encountered words and terms like sockets, LGA1200, and so on. In this article, we'll demystify them for you. Note: If you're here wondering if you can fix bent CPU pins, head to the linked article for instructions and more information. A socket or a slot is usually a combination of mechanical and electrical parts that connect a microprocessor to a circuit board (motherboards in the case of PCs). Thanks to these sockets, we can easily drop in a (compatible) CPU upgrade into the same motherboard. Now, there are several types of these CPU sockets, each with its own distinct set of advantages and disadvantages. Let's go over the ones you'll find on Desktop PCs. LGA vs. PGA. When it comes to modern desktop computers, we focus on two types of sockets: LGA and PGA. You can think of them as opposites of each other. There is another type of socket, too: BGA (Ball Grid Array), but it's not very relevant to modern desktop computing and PC building, so I won't be covering them. LGA (Land Grid Array). In recent years, Intel has become known for this type of socket. You might have heard of Intel Core processors and Intel motherboards coming with sockets like LGA 1156, LGA 1200, LGA 2011, and so on. So, what does LGA or Land Grid Array mean? It is the name given to one type of surface-mounting packaging for Integrated Circuits (ICs). In this socket, pins are placed on the motherboard socket rather than on the chips. Consequently, LGA processors look something like this: LGA 775 Intel Pentium 4 Prescott CPU (Wikimedia). Notice how there are only flat gold contacts on the chip? No pins. The pins are housed on the motherboard instead.