

ASRock Fatal1ty Z68 Professional Gen3

NEXT GENERATION GAMING

TEXT // SAMUEL PHUA

LAB TEST

COMPUTERS



AT A GLANCE

PROCESSOR
Intel Core i7 / i5
/ i3 (LGA1155)

CHIPSET
Intel Z68

SLI/ CROSSFIREX
Yes

SATA3 / USB3
Yes / Yes

PRICE
RM930

ASRock has unleashed another one of its motherboards, this time the Fatal1ty Z68 Professional Gen3. Its entire design features the trademark red and black color design of the Fatal1ty series. We were pretty interested to test out this model, since it appears to be the highest-end model produced by ASRock to date.

Besides the motherboard, ASRock includes a front USB 3.0 panel to accommodate two additional USB devices and a 2.5" SSD or HDD rack. Three extra SATA cables are also bundled in the package, presumably to satisfy the various needs of PC DIY'ers. This was evident from the fact that the Z68 Pro comes coupled with six USB 3.0 and six SATA3 ports, which are based on the concept of customization. There is also a Fatal1ty Mouse Port, which allows gamers to manually adjust the polling rate for faster mouse response times.

SPECIFICATIONS MODEL: ASRock Fatal1ty Z68 Professional Gen3 // **MEMORY SUPPORT** DDR3 2133(Oc)/1866(Oc)/1600/1333/1066 non-ECC (Dual Channel DDR3 memory technology) // **DRIVES** 2x SATA3 6.0 Gb/s, 4 x SATA3 6.0 Gb/s // **SLOTS** 2x PCI Express 3.0 x16, 1x PCI Express 2.0 x16, 2x PCI Express 2.0 x1, 2x PCI // **I/O** 1x PS/2 Keyboard, 1x VGA/D-Sub, 2x HDMI, 1x Optical S/PDIF-out, 3x Ready-to-Use USB 2.0, 1x Fatal1ty Mouse (USB 2.0), 1x eSATA3, 4x Ready-to-Use USB 3.0, 2x RJ-45 LAN with LED (ACT/LINK LED and SPEED LED), 1x IEEE 1394, 1x Clear CMOS Switch with LED, HD Audio Jack: Rear Speaker / Central / Bass / Line-in / Front Speaker / Microphone // **FORM FACTOR** ATX // **WARRANTY** 3-years **CONTACT** AMT PC Distributors Sdn Bhd (03) 3344 1124 / JW Power Marketing Sdn Bhd (03) 2148 1307 / Zeon Powertech Marketing Sdn Bhd (019) 217 2618 // **URL** www.asrock.com

The board's capacitors are an eye-catcher, probably due to the fact that they are covered with a glossy gold coating. The glaze serves to improve their lifespan and provide a more stable performance. By adopting the digital PWM design together with a V12 + 6 Power Phase, this motherboard features more sturdy components and smoother power delivery to the CPU. However, we think that its compact design makes the component spacing a bit cramped, and it may be slightly tricky for some users when they plug in PSU connectors.

Being a high-end board, the Z68 Pro comes with an integrated PLX PEX8608 chip onboard to generate more PCI-E lanes and it also possesses three PCIE 2.0 slots. The Power and Reset buttons are conveniently located beside the SATA ports for easy access. The Clear CMOS button can be found in the front, together with the output ports.

In terms of performance, our scores say it all. We increased the base clock on the motherboard to 3.40GHz and put it to the test. On PCMark05, it got a score of 15,907. After the first benchmark, we ran PCMarkVantage and it came up with a score of 11,432. PCMark7 was the final benchmark, which the board produced an impressive result of 3786. We were pretty impressed.

The Z68 Pro also comes with Lucid Virtu software, which allows faster video file convert time. Its Intel Smart Response Technology also enables users to connect the SSD and HDD for faster access speeds. The Fatal1ty XFast USB Technology boosts USB 3.0 data transfer rates as well. Other additional features include the Fatal1ty F-Stream hardware tuning program, the App Charger and On/Off Play Technology.

Our review unit came with the CyberLink MediaEspresso 6.5 trial, which allows accelerated conversion of media files to mainstream portable players. Film enthusiasts will be able to enhance their videos with TrueTheater Technology too. The graphical UEFI supports bootable HDD sizes up to 3TB.

In conclusion, the ASRock Fatal1ty Z68 Professional Gen3 will probably garner a lot of attention from serious PC gamers, due to its wide range of features and impressive performance. It definitely caught ours.

Highly recommended for overclockers and hardcore gamers



The Clear CMOS button sits between the Multi-VGA output ports and PCIE GLAN ports



The Z68 gave us an impressive score on PCMark7



Verdict:
9.0
GOLD
HWM
MALAYSIA

FEATURES: 9.0
PERFORMANCE: 9.0
VALUE: 9.0

Available at
PLAZA LOW YAT
shopping centre

VERDICT SCORES ARE OUT OF 10.