B.Sc. III Types of Computers

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Types of Computers & Computer Hardware

Computer Technology

Basic Terminology

Computer

A device that accepts input, processes data, stores data, and produces output, all according to a series of stored instructions.

Hardware

Includes the electronic and mechanical devices that process the data; refers to the computer as well as peripheral devices.

Software

 A computer program that tells the computer how to perform particular tasks.

Network

Two or more computers and other devices that are connected, for the purpose of sharing data and programs.

Peripheral devices

 Used to expand the computer's input, output and storage capabilities.

Computer Performance and Processing

Boot Process

Bootstrapping is the process of starting up a computer from a halted or powered-down condition.

Data

Refers to the symbols that represent facts, objects, or ideas.

Information

Processed, stored, or transmitted data.

Output

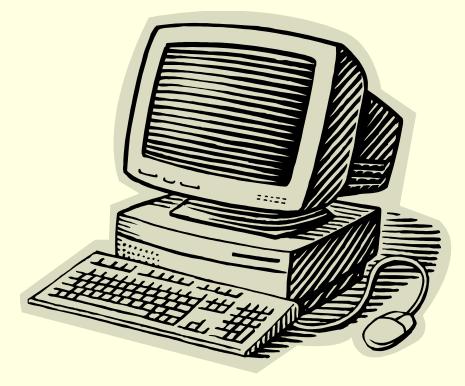
Consists of the processing results produced by a computer.

Input

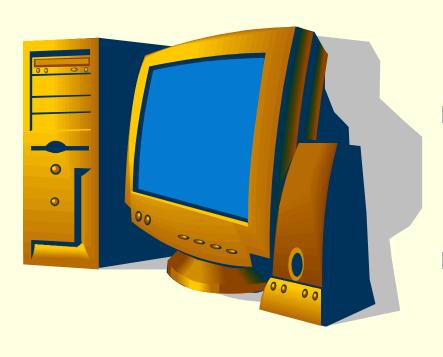
Information that is created or collected and fed into the system.

Types of Computers

- Microcomputer
- A personal computer; designed to meet the computer needs of an individual.
- Provides access to a wide variety of computing applications, such as word processing, photo editing, e-mail, and internet.



Desktop Microcomputer



- A microcomputer that fits on a desk and runs on power from an electrical wall outlet.
- The CPU can be housed in either a vertical or a horizontal case.
- Has separate components (keyboard, mouse, etc.) that are each plugged into the computer.

Laptop Computer



- A portable, compact computer that can run on an electrical wall outlet or a battery unit.
- All components (keyboard, mouse, etc.) are in one compact unit.
- Usually more expensive than a comparable desktop.
- Sometimes called a Notebook.

Workstation

- Powerful desktop computer designed for specialized tasks.
- Can tackle tasks that require a lot of processing speed.

Can also be an ordinary personal computer attached to a LAN (local area network).

Supercomputer

- A computer that was the fastest in the world at the time it was constructed.
- Can tackle tasks that would not be practical for other computers.
 - Typical uses
 - Breaking codes
 - Modeling weather systems

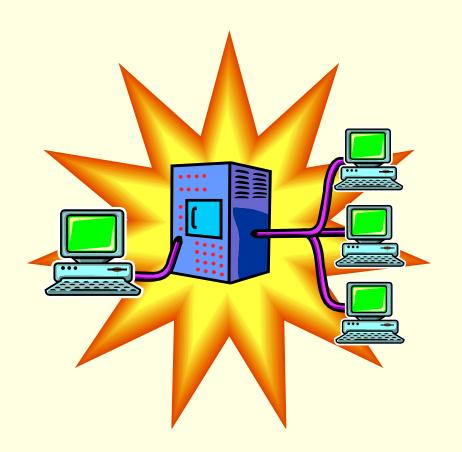
Mainframe



- Large expensive computer capable of simultaneously processing data for hundreds or thousands of users.
- Used to store, manage, and process large amounts of data that need to be reliable, secure, and centralized.
- Usually housed in a closet sized cabinet.

Server

- Purpose is to "serve."
- A computer that has the purpose of supplying its users with data; usually through the use of a LAN (local area network).



Handheld

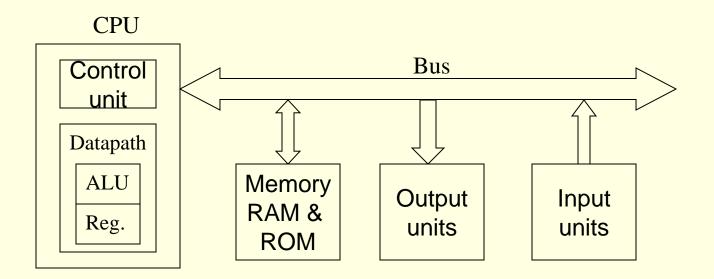


- Also called a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant).
- A computer that fits into a pocket, runs on batteries, and is used while holding the unit in your hand.
- Typically used as an appointment book, address book, calculator, and notepad.
- Can be synchronized with a personal microcomputer as a backup.

Computer Components Hardware

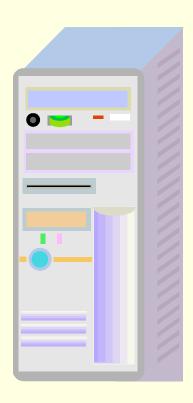


BLOCK DIAGAM OF MICROCOMPUTER

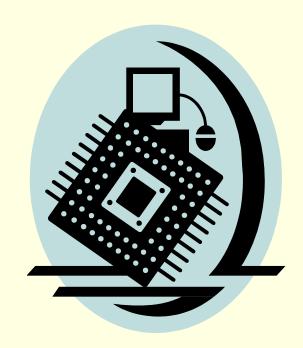


System unit

Case that holds the power supply, storage devices, and the circuit boards (including the motherboard).



CPU (Central Processing Unit)



Where the processing in a computer takes place, often called the brain of the computer.

Input Devices

Units that gather information and transform that information it into a series of electronic signals for the computer, usually it is binary form.

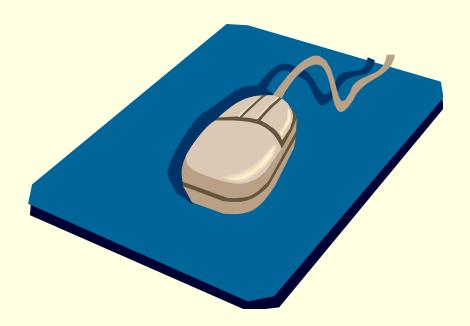
Keyboard



An arrangement of letters, numbers, and special function keys that act as the primary input device to the computer.

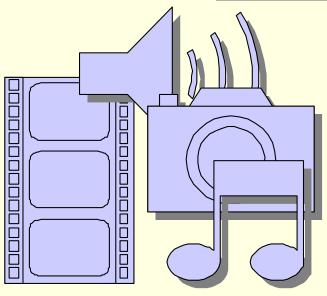
Mouse

An input device that allows the user to manipulate objects on the screen by moving the device along the surface of a desk.



Sound Card

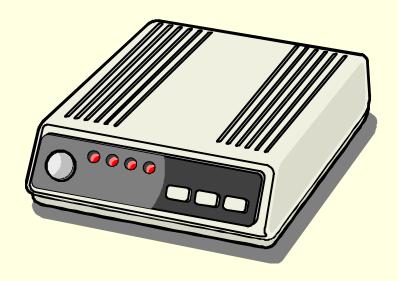




A circuit board that gives the computer the ability to accept audio input, play sound files, and produce audio output through speakers or headphones.

Modem

A device that sends and receives data to and from computers over telephone lines.



Output Devices

Devices that display, print, or transmit the results of processing from the computer's memory.

Monitor



- Display device that forms an image by converting electrical signals from the computer into points of colored light on the screen.
 - Resolution
 - The density of the grid used to display or print text and graphics; the greater the horizontal and vertical density, the higher the resolution.
 - Pixels
 - The smallest unit in a graphic image; computer display devices use a matrix of pixels to display text and graphics.

Storage Devices(Memory)

- Used to keep data when the power to the computer is turned off.
- Different forms
 - SSD
 - Hard disk
 - CD-Writer
 - PEN DRIVES





Printer

Output device that produces text or graphical images on paper.



Speakers



Output devices that receive signals from the computer's sound card to play music, narration, or sound effects.

Thank you