

Definition of the Personal Computer

Personal computer



A **personal computer (PC)** is a multi-purpose **computer** whose size, capabilities, and price make it feasible for individual use. Personal computers are intended to be operated directly by an **end user**, rather than by a computer expert or **technician**. Unlike large, costly **minicomputers** and **mainframes**, **time-sharing** by many people at the same time is not used with personal computers.

What is a computer?

Computer is a device for processing information. A computer system is a combination of four elements:

- Hardware
- Software
- Procedures
- Data/information

Software are the programmes that tell the hardware how to perform a task. Without software instructions, the hardware doesn't know what to do.



The basic job of the computer is the processing of information. Computers take information in the form of instructions called programs and symbols called data. After that they perform various mathematical and logical operations, and then give the results (information). Computer is used to convert data into information. Computer is also used to store information in the digital form.

The Computer System Concept.

A computer is more than a high-powered collection of electronic devices performing a variety of information processing chores. A computer is a system, an interrelated combination of components that performs the basic system functions of input, processing, output, storage, and control, thus providing end users with a powerful information processing tool. Understanding the computer as a computer system is vital to the effective use and management of computers.

A computer is system of hardware devices organized according to the following system functions.

- **Input.** The input devices of a computer system include keyboards, touch screens, pens, electronic mice, optical scanners, and so on.
- **Processing.** The central processing unit (CPU) is the main processing component of a computer system. (In microcomputers, it is the main microprocessor.) In particular, the electronic circuits of the arithmetic-logic unit one of the CPU's major components, perform the arithmetic and logic functions required in computer processing.
- **Output.** The output devices of a computer system include video display units, printers, audio response units, and so on, they convert electronic information produced by the computer system into human intelligible form for presentation to end users.
- **Storage.** The storage function of a computer system takes place in the storage circuits of the computer's primary storage unit, or memory, and in secondary storage devices such as magnetic disk and tape units. These devices store data and program instructions needed for processing.
- **Control.** The control unit of the CPU is the control component of a computer system. Its circuits interpret computer program instructions and transmit directions to the other components of the computer system.



Programmes

A computer program is a **list of instructions that tell a computer what to do**. Everything a computer does is done by using a computer program. A computer program is written in a programming language. Programs stored in the memory of a computer enable the computer to perform tasks in sequence or even intermittently.

Computer Hardware

Computer hardware includes the physical parts of a computer, such as the case, central processing unit (CPU), monitor, mouse, keyboard, computer data storage, graphics card, sound card, speakers and motherboard.

By contrast, **software** is the set of instructions that can be stored and run by hardware. Hardware is so-termed because it is "**hard**" or rigid with respect to changes, whereas software is "soft" because it is easy to change.

Hardware is typically directed by the software to execute any command or **instruction**. A combination of hardware and software forms a usable **computing** system, although **other systems** exist with only hardware.

Hardware Examples

Keyboard



Mouse



Monitor



Scanner



Printer



CD-ROM



Motherboard



Digital Camera



Speakers



Web Cam



RAM



Hard Disk



Processor



Microphone



Memory Stick

