

COMPUTER

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A computer is a programmed machine that operates data, or information. It has the capability to process, store, and retrieve documents. Perhaps everyone already knows that we use computers now to send emails and documents, browse the Web and even play games. We use it to also create or edit presentations, spreadsheets, as well as videos. Beal (2016) defines “a computer is generally defined as a programmable machine. The two principal characteristics of a computer are: it responds to a specific set of instructions in a well-defined manner and it can execute a prerecorded list of instructions (a program).”

Components :

Components: *Memory* allows a computer to at least temporarily store programs and data. *Central processing unit (CPU)* is considered the heart as it essentially implements all instructions. *Mass storage* lets a computer to provisionally keep large quantities of information. Typical mass storages include the USB and disk drives. *Input device* is typically a mouse and keyboard, which serve as the channel through which information and commands enter the computer. *Output device* is the monitor or display screen, scanner, printer, or other devices that lets us see the accomplished things.

Difference between Data and Information:

Accordingly, “Data can be any character, text, words, number, pictures, sound, or video and, if not put into context, means little or nothing to a human. However, information is useful and usually formatted in a manner that allows it to be understood by a human.” (Computer Hope, 2016).

Properties and Features:

Processor, Memory, Hard drive, Wireless Network Interface, and Disc Drive

Computer System (Hardware-Software):

Hardware is any computer component that has physical structure (mouse or keyboard). It also consists of the computer's inner parts. Software is any arrangements of commands that tell hardware what to accomplish. It's what directs the hardware how to accomplish all tasks. Examples are word processors, web browsers, and games.

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Types of Computer:

Many people use *desktop computers* at home, work, library and in school. They can be large or small in style, and they typically sit on desks. Another type of computer is the laptop computer. *Laptops* are AC- or battery- powered computers that are portable, allowing us to use it anywhere. *Tablets* or tablet computers are handheld computers that are much portable than a laptop. Rather than having a keyboard, tablets have a touch-screen for navigation and typing. A *server*, on the other hand, is a computer serving up data to other computers in a system. Several industries have servers and employees use it in storing and sharing documents. A server looks like a usual desktop, but typically larger.

Computer Evolution:

Rouse (2016) writes that *"most histories of the modern computer begin with the Analytical Engine envisioned by Charles Babbage following the mathematical ideas of George Boole. Ada Lovelace is said to have introduced the ideas of program loops and subroutines and is sometimes considered the first programmer. Modern computers inherently follow the ideas of the stored program laid out by John von Neumann in 1945. With the advent of the Internet and higher bandwidth data transmission, programs and data that are part of the same overall project can be distributed over a network."*

References

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