

# Basic Applications of Computers

## What is a computer?

The term computer was taken from the Greek word compute means calculation and the computer was a person or device that did computation. A computer is a machine used to manipulate data or information and perform mathematical and logical operations. Modern computers perform a wide range of tasks, store retrieve, and process information. Using a computer we can create/modify documents, send/receive emails, browse information on the internet, and play video games. After the invention of computer science and technology became too advanced. Today we can not imagine growing our technology without computers.

## Components of the computer system:

The various components of the computer system are classified into two groups.

- Hardware
- Software

**1. Hardware:** Hardware is the physical tangible component of the computer system. This type of component is touchable. CPU, Mouse, Keyboard are examples of hardware components. So, the hardware of the computer system are:

- **Input Device:** Input devices allow the user to enter data/information in the CPU (Central Processing Unit). Mouse, Keyboard, scanner, barcode reader are general examples of input devices.

- **Output Device:** Output devices input the processed data/information into human-readable form. Monitor, speaker, projector, printer are general examples of output devices.

- **Central Processing Unit (CPU):** The CPU is referred to as the brain of a computer system. It is used to processed data/information and provides output to output devices. The CU (control unit), ALU (arithmetic and logical unit), and registers are components of the CPU.

- **Storage:** In a computer, storage devices are used to store the data or information that entered into the computer system and the output comes from processing the information or data.

**2. Software:** Software is a collection of programs (set of instructions), data, and protocols. It is not in material form so we can not touch such types of components. The execution of software programs is performed by hardware. Firmware, operating systems, applications are examples of software .

## Features of Computer

**Speed:** A computer is a time-saving device. It performs several calculations and tasks in few seconds that we take hours to solve. The speed of a computer is measure in terms of GigaHertz and MegaHertz.

**Accuracy:** A calculation or task performed by a computer is accurate the chances of occurring errors are minimal. The errors occur in a computer by entering wrong data by a human being. A computer performs several tasks and calculations so quickly and accurately.

**Memory:** A computer can store billions of records as per requirement and these records can easily accessible with full accuracy. The storing capacity of computer memory is measured in terms of Bytes, Kilobytes (KB), Megabytes (MB), Gigabyte(GB), and Terabyte(TB).

**Versatility:** A computer can perform more than one task at the same time, this feature is called versatility. For example, we can create our project using PowerPoint and Wordpad while listening to music or we can design a website while listening to music.

**Automation:** Today the world is moving toward AI (Artificial Intelligence) based technology. Once instructions are programmed, a computer can perform work automatically. This feature of the

computer replaces thousands of workers by performing tasks automatically.

**Reliability:** A computer is a reliable device. The output results never differ until the input is different. If an input is the same then output won't be different.

**Diligence:** A human can not work for several hours without taking a rest whereas a computer device never gets tired. A computer can perform millions of calculations constantly with full accuracy without taking a rest.

Thank you

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