

Basic Parts of the Computer

How computers work.



Personal Computer

- A PC (personal computer) is a general purpose tool built around a microprocessor. It has lots of different parts like memory, a hard disk, a modem, etc. that work together.

"General purpose" means that you can do many different things with a PC.

Main Parts of the PC

- Central processing unit (CPU)
- Memory
- Motherboard
- Power supply
- Hard disk
- Operating system
- Sound card
- Graphics card

Central Processing Unit

- (CPU) - The microprocessor "brain" of the computer system is called the central processing unit. Everything that a computer does is overseen by the CPU.

Memory

THIS IS VERY FAST STORAGE USED TO HOLD DATA. THERE ARE SEVERAL SPECIFIC TYPES OF MEMORY IN A COMPUTER:

- Random-access memory (RAM) - Used to temporarily store information that the computer is currently working with
- Read-only memory (ROM) - A permanent type of memory storage used by the computer for important data that does not change
- Virtual memory - Space on a hard disk used to temporarily store data and swap it in and out of RAM as needed

Motherboard

- This is the main circuit board that all of the other internal components connect to.
- The CPU and memory are usually on the motherboard.
- Other systems may be found directly on the motherboard or connected to it through a secondary connection.

Power Supply

- An electrical transformer that regulates the electricity used by the computer.

Hard Disk

- This is large-capacity permanent storage used to hold information such as programs and documents

Operating System

- This is the basic software that allows the user to interface with the computer.

Sound Card

- This is used by the computer to record and play audio by converting analog sound into digital information and back again.

Graphics Card

- This translates image data from the computer into a format that can be displayed by the monitor.

Peripherals

- Monitor
- Printer
- Keyboard
- Mouse
- Scanner
- CD Drive