

Input and Output Systems

Input Hardware Devices

This week class, we will discuss the hardware associated with your input and output devices. Now pause and take a look at your device. How do you enter data and get information out? How does your computer read your data, process it, and return write it back to you so that you may get the information you need for day-to-day operations? These are the activities of your input and output peripherals. According to your Williams (2015),



- **Input hardware** consists of devices that translate data into a form that the computer can process—for example, keyboards and scanners. The people-readable form of the data may be words, but the computer-readable form consists of binary 0s and 1s, or off and on electrical signals or light pulses.
- **Output hardware** consists of devices that translate information processed by the computer into a form that humans can understand—for example, display screens or printers. The computer-processed information consists of 0s and 1s, which need to be translated into words, numbers, sounds, and pictures.

There are many input devices that allow you to capture your data for processing. The number one input device is the mouse. However, you may also think of other input devices such as the keyboard, touchscreen, microphone, computer drive, scanner, and a camera to name a few. What are some other input devices you have used? Note, the three key input devices are *keyboards*, *pointing devices*, and *source data-entry devices*. You will find that you will use several input devices almost simultaneously. Examine the major types of input devices in your book to gain a deeper understanding of your usage.
