

## Identifying Hardware - Exercise

1. To begin, have each student bring you their personal laptop and have them identify all of the ports, and explain what they do. They should also be able to identify which cables belong to each port.
2. Have the students provide real world examples of input and output devices using only their laptops and peripherals.
3. Provide each student with a [worksheet](#) with a list of computer hardware components that they will need to identify during the activity.
  - CPU
  - Motherboard
  - RAM
  - Storage drive
  - Power supply
  - Graphics card
4. Use one of the tech class desktops for practice. Have students verify that the computer is completely powered off and unplug all of the cables.

5. Guide students through the process of opening up the computer case. Show them how to identify the screws and other fasteners that hold the case together, and explain the importance of being careful not to damage any of the internal components. Discuss precautions such as grounding oneself to avoid electrostatic discharge, and being careful not to drop any screws.
6. Once the case is open, have students identify and label the various components listed on the worksheet. Have them write down as much information as possible. Refer to the reading for visual reference. Encourage them to ask questions and to handle the components as much as possible.
7. Identify the different ports on the computer, explain what their purpose is, and identify which cables go to which ports.
8. Have students put the desktop back together and power it back on. Ask them to share any observations or questions that they may have about their own computer's hardware.