Magnetic devices store data magnetically. A disk drive spins the disk at high speed and reads its data or writes new data onto it.

A floppy disk drive uses diskettes which relatively slow and can hold 1.44MB of data.

Most PC’s have one hard disk, which can hold several gigabytes of data and is used to keep operating system and important files. When you format disk, its surface is divided into tracks and sectors. The average time required for read and write heads to move and find data is called access time and is measured in milliseconds.

A portable hard drive is an external unit with the drive mechanism and the media all in one sealed case and it is used to keep your files safe.

Optical drives use a laser to read and write date, so they are not affected by magnets but they are relatively slow. There are two types of optical storages. CDs can store up to 650-700 MB of data. DVDs are similar in size but they differ in structure and capacity. DVDs can store from 5 to 17 GB of data.

Portable DVD players let you watch movies or listen to music, wherever you are.

Flash memory is solid-state, rewritable and non-volatile type of storage device. Flash memory cards are used in cameras, PDAs and music players. Flash Drives are connected to USB port let you save and transfer data easily.