

Hardware

A	Integral hardware	
Central Processing Unit	CPU	Main processing unit of the computer, comprising the Arithmetic and Logic Unit, the Control Unit and the immediate access store
Network Interface Controller	NIC	The part of the computer which connects to networks
Hard Disk Drive	HDD	The storage hardware which stores data permanently
Heat sink		A device which draws heat away from any component which is likely to overheat
Graphics Card		A piece of hardware which contains the GPU
Graphical Processing Unit	GPU	Dedicated processor for rendering images
Motherboard		The printed circuit board on which the CPU is installed, with connectors to peripherals

C	Network media vocab	
Cat 5e/ Cat 6	Common types of UTP	
Coaxial cable	Single copper wire surrounded by a metallic mesh for shielding	
Fibre optic cable	Glass or plastic cable where data is transmitted as light	
Shielding	Anything which goes around a data carrying wire to absorb interference	
Unshielded Twisted Pair (UTP)	A type of copper wire which is often used for wired networks	
Wireless	Without wires	

B	Peripherals	
Peripheral	Input, output or storage device which is not integral to the computer	
Input device	A device which introduces data to the computer	
Mouse, touchscreen, keyboard, microphone, webcam, scanner, digital camera, controller, accelerometer		
Output device	A device which displays or transmits data from the computer	
Speaker, screen, printer, headphones, buzzer, motor		
Storage device	A device which can hold, read and write data	
HDD, DVD drive, CD drive, USB stick, SD card reader		
Dongle	A device which attaches to a networked computer and makes it behave like a WAP	

D	Network hardware	
Hub	A device which receives signals and rebroadcasts it to all connected nodes	
Repeater	A device which listens for a signal and then resends it on to help reduce data collisions	
Router	A device which connects networks together, and also splits data into packets, and forwards packets onward	
Server	A computer which provides services for the rest of the network	
Switch	A device which receives data and sends it only to the intended destination	