

MODULE 2 COMPUTER HARDWARE

Unit 1	Hardware Components (1)
Unit 2	Hardware Components (2) – Peripheral Devices
Unit 3	Auxiliary Equipment

UNIT 1 HARDWARE COMPONENTS (1)

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

Your personal computer (PC) is really a collection of separate items working together as a team, with you as the captain. Some of these components are essential; others simply make working more pleasant or efficient. Adding extra items expands the variety of tasks you can accomplish with your machine.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

At the end of this unit you should be able to:

- identify the components of the computer
- explain the importance of each component of the computer.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 The System Unit

The system unit is the main unit of a PC. It is the computer itself while other units attached to it are regarded as peripherals. It could be viewed as the master conductor

orchestrating your PC's operation. It is made up of several components like the motherboard, processor, buses, memory, power supply unit, etc. This unit (the system unit) has been confused over the years by novices as the CPU. This is not true. The CPU (Central Processing Unit) or simply processor is a component within the system unit and is not the only thing that makes up the system unit. Hence, it will be wrong to equate the system unit with the CPU.

3.2 The Front of the System Unit

Lights

Your unit may display a variety of coloured lights on the front panel, including power and turbo signals, and light to indicate if the hard or floppy disk is being read or written to.

Key Lock

You can stop intruders from tampering with your PC by using the lock on the front panel. Turning the key prevents the keyboard from working.

Turbo Button

Some PCs offer a choice of speeds at which they can run. A turbo switch is usually left so the computer runs at its fastest speed.

Reset Button

If your PC “freezes” and won't respond to any command, try starting it up again using the reset button. Pressing the reset button loses all the work you have not saved in that session, so use it only as a last resort.

Power On/Off

All PCs have main power switch on the system unit. Sometimes this control is placed on the outside back panel.

Floppy Disk Drives

Either, or both, of two standard types of floppy disk drive may be found at the front of the system unit. Some systems also have internal CDROM or tape drives.