

# COMPUTER TERMINOLOGY

## FLOATING POINT

In **computing**, **floating point** describes a method of representing an approximation of a **real number** in a way that can support a wide range of values. The numbers are, in general, represented approximately to a fixed number of **significant digits** (the mantissa) and scaled using an **exponent**. The base for the scaling is normally 2, 10 or 16. The typical number that can be represented exactly is of the form:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floating\\_point](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floating_point)