Introduction to Computers

Today's PCs can perform several billion operations per second. They are used not only for household management, but also for most of automatics tasks, including word processing, tracking inventory, and calculating information. The fastest desktop computers are called workstations, and they are generally used for scientific, engineering, or business applications.

Servers are fast computers that have greater data processing capabilities than most PCs and workstations and can be used simultaneously by many people. The server controls resources that are shared by the people working at the PCs and workstations.

Mainframes are large, extremely fast, multiuser computers that often contain complex arrays of processors, each designed to perform a specific function. Because they can handle huge databases and perform complex mathematical operations.

The speed and power of supercomputers are almost beyond human comprehension, and their capabilities are continually being improved. The fastest of these machines can perform many trillions of operations per second. As these computers can cost billions of dollars.