Components

of a

COMPUTER

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS?

HARDWARE

LIVEWARE

SOFTWARE

DATAWARE
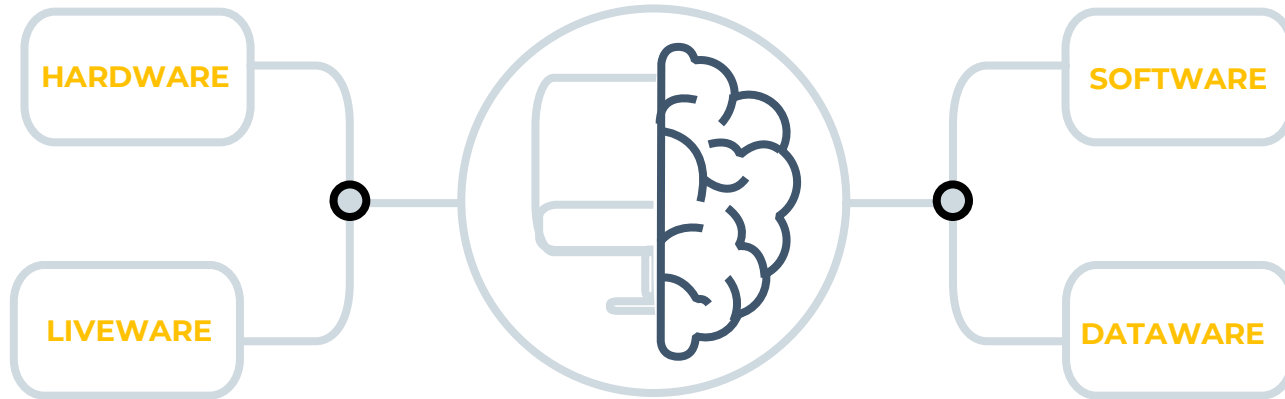
Are physical parts/ tangible parts of a computer or the machine itself.

HARDWARE

Also known as programs or applications. They are classified into two classes namely - sytem software and application software.

SOFTWARE

Is the computer user or literate user of computer. The user commands the computer system to execute on instructions. Also known as orgware or the humanware.

LIVEWARE

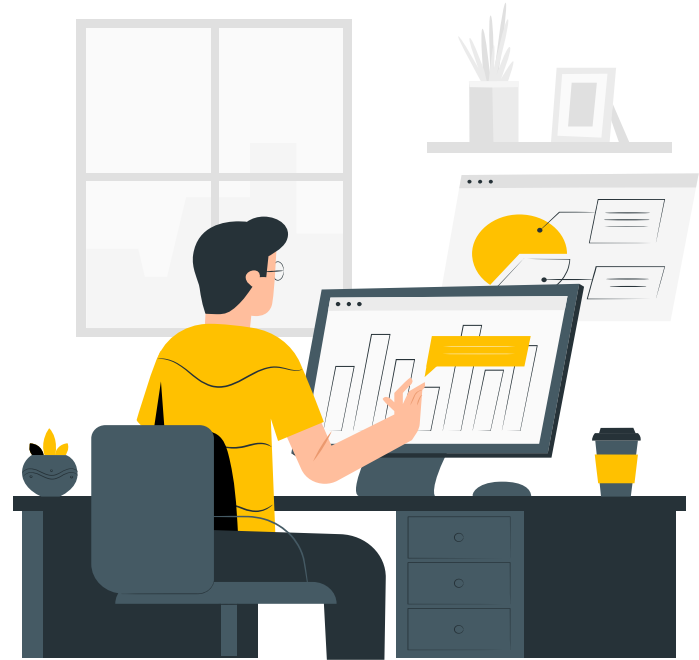An input and output information. These are data to be processed by liveware.

DATAWARE

HARDWARE

INPUT DEVICES

Are devices used for entering data or instructions to the central processing unit. Are classified according to the method they use to enter data.

- Keying Devices
- Pointing Devices
- Scanning Devices

KEYING DEVICES

Are devices used to enter data into the computer using a set of Keys eg Keyboard, key-to- storage and keypad.

Keying Device

Keyboard

is the main input device of a computer . It contains three types of keys-- alphanumeric keys, special keys and function keys.

POINTING DEVICES

Are devices that enter data and instructions into the computer using a pointer that appears on the screen. The items to be entered are selected by either pointing to or clicking on them. e.g mice, joystick, touch sensitive screen, trackballs.

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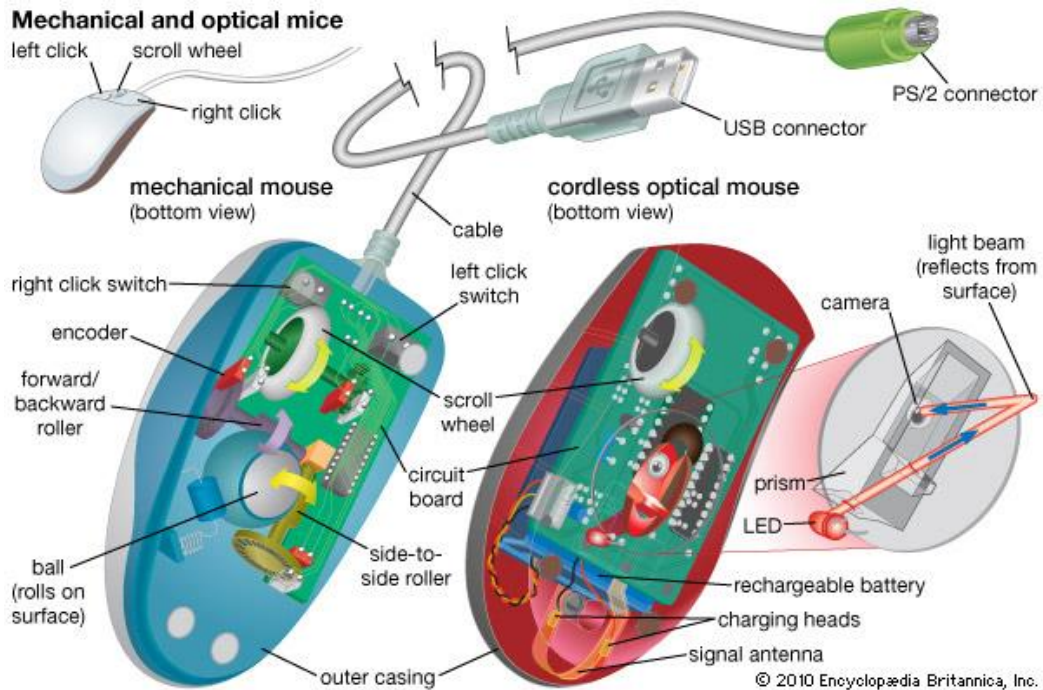
Pointing Device

Mechanical/Track Ball

uses a ball to roll on surface and a ps/2 connector

Optical

uses a LED light to roll on surface and a USB connector

Pointing Device

Mechanical and optical mice

left click — scroll wheel — right click

mechanical mouse (bottom view)

cordless optical mouse (bottom view)

USB connector

PS/2 connector

cable

right click switch

encoder

forward/backward roller

ball (rolls on surface)

left click switch

scroll wheel

circuit board

side-to-side roller

outer casing

camera

light beam (reflects from surface)

prism

LED

rechargeable battery

charging heads

signal antenna

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SCANNING DEVICES

Are devices that capture an object or a document directly from the source. They are classified according to the technology used to capture data e.g. Scanners and Document readers.
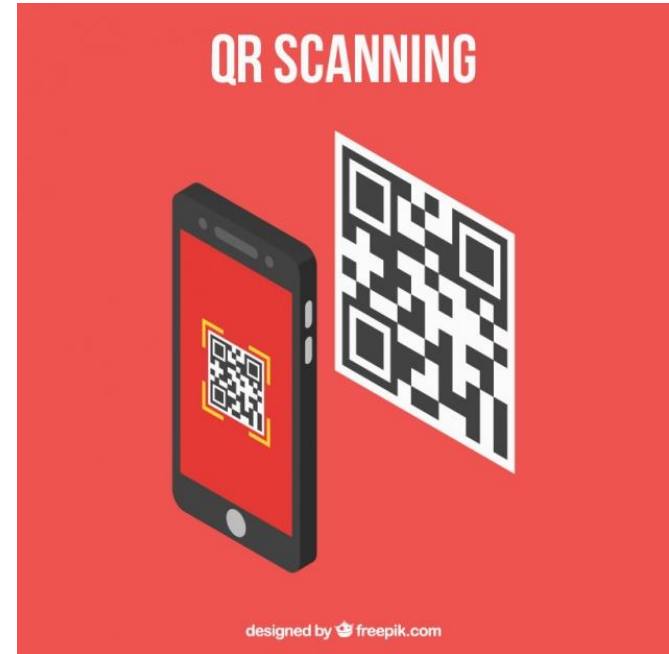
Scanning Devices

All-in-one Scanner

A scanner, with a built in printer and a photocopy machine use for documents and pictures.

Flatbed Scanner

A scanner that uses a flat glass surface for scanning documents and pictures.

Drum Scanner

Acts essentially as a digital camera, used to scan reflective and transparent materials at an extremely high resolution.

Handheld Scanner

used for scanning a physical document and converting it electronically to be displayed on computers attached to the store.

OUTPUT DEVICES

Are devices used for displaying data or instructions, producing sounds and tangible products.
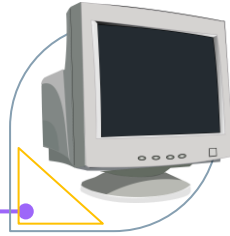
- Monitors
- Printers
- Speakers/Headphones

Monitors

A monitor is an output device that displays information in pictorial form.
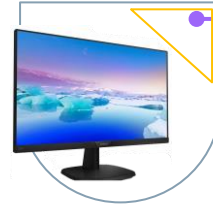
CRT

Cathode Ray Tube Monitor

LCD

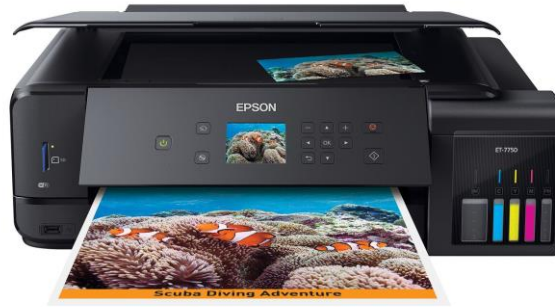Liquid Crystal Display Monitor

LED

Light Emitting Diode Monitor

Printer

All-one-printer

a printing device that serves several functions, including printing, faxing, scanning, and copying.

Sound Output

Speaker

converts analog audio signals into the equivalent air vibrations in order to make audible sound.

Headphone

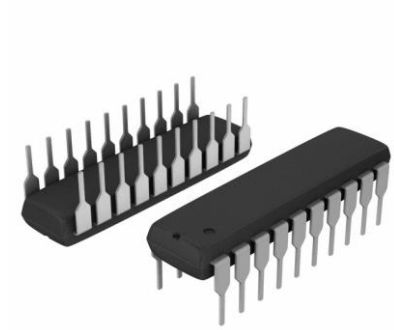allows you to listen to audio or watch a movie without disturbing people around you

STORAGE DEVICES

Any computing hardware that is used for storing, porting and extracting data files and objects.

- ROM/RAM
- Diskette/CD
- Hard drives/Flash drives

Storage Device

ROM

Read-only memory is a type of non-volatile memory used in computers and other electronic devices. t's used to store the start-up instructions for a computer, also known as the firmware.

RAM

A random-access memory device allows data items to be read or written in almost the same amount of time irrespective of the physical location of data inside the memory.

Storage Device

Diskette

Removable data storage medium that can be used with personal computers. The term usually refers to the magnetic medium housed in a rigid plastic cartridge measuring 3.5 inches square and about 2millimeters thick.

Compact Disk

Compact disc is a digital optical disc data storage. The format was originally developed to store and play only digital audio recordings but was later adapted for storage of data.

CDR – Compact Disk Recordable
CDRW – Compact Disk Rewrittable

Storage Device

Flash Drive

A USB flash drive is a data storage device that includes flash memory with an integrated USB interface. It is typically removable, rewritable and much smaller than an optical disc.

Hard Drive

a high-capacity, self-contained storage device containing a read-write mechanism plus one or more hard disks, inside a sealed unit. Also called hard disk drive.

SOFTWARE

SYSTEM SOFTWARE

Is a type of computer program that is designed to run a computer's hardware and application programs. If we think of the computer system as a layered model, the system software is the interface between the hardware and user applications.

- Operating System
- Device Driver
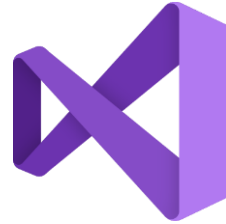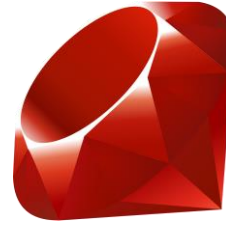- Utility
- Language Translator

Operating System

It is a collection of software that handles resources and provides general services for the other applications that run over them. As an OS essentially determines how a user interacts with the system, therefore many users prefer to use one specific OS for their device.

Programming Language

These are mediator programs on which software programs rely to translate high-level language code to simpler machine-level code.

Utility

Utility software is designed to aid in analyzing, optimizing, configuring and maintaining a computer system. It supports the computer infrastructure. This software focuses on how an OS functions and then accordingly it decides its trajectory to smoothen the functioning of the system.

APPLICATION SOFTWARE

Also known as end-user programs or productivity programs are software that helps the user in completing tasks such as doing online research, jotting down notes, setting an alarm, designing graphics, keeping an account log, doing calculations or even playing games.

- Word Processors
- Multimedia Software
- Web Browser

Word Processor

These applications for documentation. Along with that it also helps I storing, formatting and printing of these documents.

Multimedia Software

It is the software that is able to play, create or record images, audio or video files. They are used for video editing, animation, graphics, and image editing.

Web Browsers

These applications are used to browse the internet. They help the user in locating and retrieving data across the web.

OTHER SOFTWARE

Freeware software is available without any cost. Any user can download it from the internet and use it without paying any fee. However, freeware does not provide any liberty for modifying the software or charging a fee for its distribution.

- Adobe Reader
- Skype
- Yahoo Messenger

OTHER SOFTWARE

Shareware It is a software that is freely distributed to users on a trial basis. It usually comes with a time limit and when the time limit expires, the user is asked to pay for the continued services.

- WinZip
- PHP Debugger
- Adobe Acrobat

OTHER SOFTWARE

Open-source these kinds of software are available to users with the source code which means that a user can freely distribute and modify the software and add additional features to the software.

- Moodle
- Mozilla Firefox

TUROTEAM

Kezia Velasco

INSTRUCTOR 1

Kenno Fortz

INSTUCTOR 1

Josifina Llagas

INSTRUCTOR 1

https://squareboat.com/blog/different-types-of-software-with-examples
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