

Lesson 4

Super Select Computer Types



Types of Computers

When selecting a computer that is best for your needs, you should consider what purpose it will serve in your home or business, and whether it should be mobile for travel.

Desktop PC

A Desktop PC is the most common type of computer. Most desktop systems come with a separate computer case, monitor, keyboard, and mouse. On older desktops, the computer case lies flat on the desk with the monitor sitting on top. Almost all newer systems use a tower case that sits upright. You can place this case either on a desk or on the floor. Many newer desktops are Media Center PCs that enable you to play movies, view pictures, and listen to music through your TV and stereo.



Notebook or Laptop

A notebook or laptop is a computer that combines the case, monitor, keyboard, and mouse in one unit. It is also called as portable. Notebooks are light, usually weighing only four to six pounds, that will let you to take them out of your office or home easily. Most notebooks are as powerful as a desktop system.

Tablet PC

A tablet PC is a computer that looks similar to a small notebook. However, the tablet PC screen pivots so that it lies on top of the keyboard, making it look like a writing tablet. You can use a digital pen to input your data, or select items on the screen.



Handheld PC

A handheld PC is a very small computer, usually weighing less than a pound that you can hold comfortably in your hand or carry in a jacket pocket. It is also called as Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or palmtop. Most people use it to store their schedules and check their e-mail while out of the office.



Server

A server is a powerful computer that acts as a central resource for a number of other computers that are connected to it. These other computers can be desktops or stripped-down terminals that use the server to run programs and store data. Some servers are mainframes, which are giant computers that run large-scale operations, such as airline reservation systems.



Slate PC

A Slate PC is usually bigger than that of a Handheld PC. It works like a Desktop PC and a Laptop. It is used by many professionals and students abroad. Students write their lessons and assignments in it instead of a physical notebook since it can recognize handwriting, where the user can use a stylus pen or their hands to write and store it immediately. Furthermore, you can play online games and surf the internet with this type of PC.



Workstation

Another type of computer is a workstation. A workstation is simply a desktop computer that has a more powerful processor, additional memory and enhanced capabilities for performing a special group of task, such as **3D Graphics** or **game development**.

Some call this computer as terminal wherein it is connected to a server.



Supercomputer

This type of computer usually costs hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars. Although some supercomputers are single computer systems, most are composed of multiple high performance computers working in parallel as a single system. The best known supercomputers are built by Cray Supercomputers.



Wearable Computer

The latest trend in computing is wearable computers. Essentially, common computer applications (e-mail, database, multimedia, calendar/scheduler) are integrated into watches, cell phones, visors and even clothing.

