

Control unit

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A **control unit** or **CU** is circuitry that directs operations within a computer's [processor](#). It lets the computer's [logic unit](#), [memory](#), and both [input](#) and [output devices](#) know how to respond to instructions received from a program. Examples of devices that utilize control units include [CPUs](#) (central processing units) and [GPUs](#) (graphics processing units).

A control unit works by receiving input information that it converts into control signals, which are then sent to the central processor. The computer's processor then tells the attached [hardware](#) what operations to carry out. The functions that a control unit performs are dependent on the type of CPU, due to the variance of architecture between different manufacturers. The following diagram illustrates how instructions from a program are processed.

