

Business - has transformed business landscape by automating processes, enabling e-commerce and facilitating global trade.

Finance - finance industry relies on IT for secure transactions, risk management and data analysis eg online banking, investment services.

Healthcare - helps in patient management, medical research and treatment delivery.

Electronic health systems, records, telemedicine and health information systems enhance quality of health care.

Agriculture - farmers use IT for weather updates, market places and modern farming tools.

Innovation and creativity - supports new ideas like artificial intelligence, robots, editing and producing digital work.

BASIC COMPUTER TERMINOLOGY

1. Central Processing Unit (CPU)

It ~~executes~~ ^{executes} instructions organised into programs that determine computer's action.
Role in biostatistics - enable simulation in epidemiology modelling.

executes statistical algorithm, ie survival analysis.

2. Memory (RAM)

Temporarily stores active programs, data currently being processed and intermediate ^{results}.
Role : holding large patient databases & during longitudinal analysis.

NB. Insufficient RAM causes disk swapping which slows computations in both health and financial simulation.

3. Mass Storage Devices

Slower, long-term memory that retains data between computational jobs, eg Hard disk devices (HDD)

Solid state devices (SSD) - offer high read, crucial for large scale risk simulation.

Tape device (archival) - relevant for long-term archival in hospitals or genomics institutions.

Role : longitudinal surveys

Historical clinical trial data

Genomic sequences

3. Mini computer - a multi-user computer capable of supporting up to hundred or more users simultaneously.
4. Mainframe - a powerful multi-user computer capable of supporting many hundred thousand of user simultaneously.
5. Supercomputer - an extremely fast computer that can perform hundreds of millions of instruction per second.

B. FUNDAMENTALS OF COMPUTER OPERATIONS

~~Input~~ - computer receives data through keyboard, mouse or touch screen.

~~Processing~~ - the computer system starts executing the instruction given by the user.

~~Output~~ - the result of the instruction given by a user.

~~Storing~~ - memory and storage are used to hold data temporarily / permanently.

~~Controlling~~ - type of process that monitors the instruction given by the user from the time it is executed to the output result.

✓ **INPUT DEVICES** - Keyboard, Touchscreen, Microphone, Game controllers, Mouse, scanner, camera.

✓ **Processing Devices** - Central Processing Unit - the brain

Arithmetic Logic Unit - performs arithmetic & logical operation.

Central Unit - direct all computer operations.

Graphic Processing Unit - handle graphics and parallel tasks.

Function involved in Processing

Running program instruction.

Performing arithmetic calculation.

Decision making through logic operation.

Managing flow of data between component.

✓ **MEMORY & STORAGE** - Primary Memory

Random Access Memory - temporary working.

Cache - high speed memory inside CPU.

Registers - fastest storage inside CPU.

Secondary memory -

Solid state drive - fast permanent storage.

Memory card - used in

HDD, DVD, Blu-ray - mechanical permanent storage.

USB flash Drive - portable external storage.

Phone, Camera

* OUTPUT DEVICES - Monitor Speakers VR Headset
Printer Projector

Computer - an electronic device that receives information, processes it and gives back results.

- It's an electronic device that processes input data to output data.

Characteristics of a computer -

Speed - very fast device capable of performing calculation of very large amount of data.

Accuracy - calculation are 100% error free.

Storage - have large storage capacity.

Diligence - free from monotony, tiredness and lack concentration. It can work continuously without error.

Reliability - made designed to make maintenance easy.

versatility - flexible in performing the jobs to be done.

Automation - they perform a given task automatically.

I CPU

Consists of:

- a) Arithmetic and Logical Unit

It where most arithmetic and logical data computer operations are executed.

NOTE: All operands (numbers) may not reside in the main memory. Processor contains a number of high speed storage elements called Registers which may be used for temporary storage of frequently used operand.

b) Control Unit

Act as a nerve center that sends control signal to other units.

Generates timing signal that governs the flow of data.

Generates synchronization signals.

Maintain order and direct the operation of the entire system by selecting, interpreting and executing the program instruction.

ASSIGNMENT 1

INTRODUCTION TO IT FOR STATISTICS

Information technology - is the study, design, development, application, implementation support or management of computer-based information systems.

Is the application or use of computers and electronic systems to store and share information.

A. Role of IT in the Society

- Provide productivity tools that enhance the speed and transparency of statistical operations
- Automate institutional work flows: eg in hospitals
- Support high stake decision making through real time info. access
- Integrate data from heterogeneous sources, ie stock exchanges

In academic/professional fields

- Selecting appropriate hardware and software for an organisation
- Maintaining, upgrading and securing the computational infrastructure
- Managing data capture tools for cohort study
- Configuring servers for R, Python and SAS computing
- Ensuring security of trading algorithms and risk models
- Managing distributed database for tick-level or sentimental analysis data
- Deploying low latency architectures for real time market feeds
- Store large data set eg transactional
- Transmit data securely across networks
- Protect sensitive information
- Retriece information rapidly for decision making

Transport - Through traffic lights, GPS navigation, online hailing apps like Ola, Uber, Taxify, transportation

Security - Helps to protect data through passwords, encryption and monitoring system. Also through CCTV, and alarms

Education - Has enabled institutions, provide online learning platform, digital resources and interactive tools ie Zeraki, studoco

Government - has helped improve public service, enhance transparency and engage with citizens, eg E-citizen services

4 INPUT Devices

They deliver data and instructions into the system eg clinical trial data, lab measurement and survey input in biostatistics.

5 OUTPUT devices

Used to visualize computational result eg monitors, printers, dashboard.

6 Supporting components : The bus and Interconnects

The bus - Is a communication backbone linking CPU, memory storage and to ensure efficient computational performance.

Role in biostatistics : Influence large matrix operation & distributed database queries.

Hard

Hardware - physical component of a computer that are tangible ie key board, mouse.

Software - programs that run on a computer.

Network - a group of connected computers that share resources.

Internet - a global network that connects computers.

Operating systems (OS) - main software that manages computer hardware and allows other programs to run ie Windows, Android.

IP Address - a unique no. that identifies a device on a network.

File - A digital document or piece of information stored in a computer.

Backup - a copy of data stored to prevent loss.

DATA VS INFORMATION

Data - plain facts

Information - data that is processed, organized, structured or presented in a meaningful way to make them meaningful / useful.

Data is the computer language while information is our translation of this language.

computer size and Power

1. Personal Computer - a small single-user computer based on a microprocessor.

2. Workstation - a powerful, single-user computer and has a powerful microchip in high quality monitor.

2. REGISTERS

Internal Memory Organization of Processor

a. Instruction Register (IR)

Holds the instruction that is currently being executed.

Its output is available to the control circuit which operates, generates the timing signals that control the various processing element involved in executing the instruction.

Generates clock pulses

Determines CPU speed

Synchronizes computer component

b. Program Counter (PC)

Contains the address of the instruction currently being executed.

c. General Purpose Registers (R₀ to R_{n-1})

Facilitate communication with the main memory.

d. Memory Address Register (MAR)

Holds the address of the location to or from which data are to be transferred.

e. Memory Data Register (MDR)

Contains the data to be written into or read out of the address location.

3. MACHINE CYCLES

Is the complete set of steps the CPU goes through to process a single instruction or a single piece of data.

Steps:

- 1) Fetch - The CPU gets (fetches) the instruction from memory

- 2) Decode - The CPU interprets (decodes) the instruction to understand what action is required.

- 3) Execute - The CPU performs the operation by addition, comparison, reading, writing data etc.

- 4) Store - The result of the operation is written back to memory or a register.

Impacts

They determine how fast a CPU processes instruction.

(CPU with faster machine cycles per instruction are faster)

A track - is a physical division of data in a disk drive, as used in the cylinder - Head-Record (CHNR)

Tracks are divided into blocks or sectors, pages -

A sector - is a subdivision of a track on a magnetic disk or optical disk. Each sector stores a fixed amount of user data.

disk sector - intersection of a track and mathematical sector -

Clusters (Grid storage) - Is a new technology paradigm that pushes the scalability and efficiency boundaries of storage area network to (SAN) new levels.

Made of network connected storage with an administrative function that manages a collection of physical disks.

Application for large scale Biostatistical data sets -

- COMPUTER SOFTWARE

① SYSTEM SOFTWARE

Refers to the program, instruction, and data that tell the hardware what to do.

→ Functions as a bridge between computer system hardware and the application software.

→ Made up of many control programs including operating system, communication software and database manager.

→ Consists of 3 kinds of Programs : a) System Management Programs
b) System Support Programs
c) System Development Programs

a) SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS :

Programs that manage the application software, computer hardware and data resources of the computer system.

b) SYSTEM SUPPORT PROGRAMS :

Helps users develop information system programs and prepare our programs for computer.

c) SYSTEM SUPPORT PROGRAMS

They help the operations and management of a computer system -

- For accessing data, a distinct address is associated with each word location.
- Data and programs must be in the primary memory for execution.
 - expensive
 - fast memory

Memory access - time required to access one word

Primary memory allows the computer to store data for immediate manipulation and to keep track of what is currently being processed.

b. Secondary storage

Are used when large amount of data have to be stored.

Are less expensive compared to primary storage device.

nB Memory is used while referring to primary memory while storage is used while referring to secondary memory.

Units used to measure computer memory

Bit - smallest unit of data on a machine and a single bit can have only one of two values; 0 or 1.

Byte - A unit of eight bits and it is able to contain any binary number between 00000000 and 11111111. It is represented by an upper case B.

Kilobyte :- Kilo refers to 1024.

→ its equal to 1024 bytes. Usually represented as KB.

Megabyte :- Comprises 1024 kilobytes or 1,048,576 bytes.

It is standard unit of measurement for RAM and is represented as MB.

Gigabyte :- consists of 1024 MB.

It is standard unit of measurement for hard disks and is rep as GB.

Terabyte :- Refers to 1024 GB. Represented as TB.

D. MEMORY HIERARCHY

1. INTERNAL PROCESSOR MEMORY

Placed within the CPU or it is attached to a special fast bus.

Includes ; a) Cache memory

b) special registers

CACHE MEMORY - a buffer, smaller and faster than main storage used to hold a copy of instructions and data in main storage that are likely to be needed by the processor and that has been obtained automatically from main storage.

2. PRIMARY MEMORY - (RAM, ROM)

a) RAM - is the place where the computer temporarily stores the operating system, application programs and current data so that the computer processor can reach them quickly and easily.

Type of RAM -

i) Static RAM - The info remains stable as long as power supply is supplied but data are lost as soon as the power goes down hence non-volatile.

ii) Dynamic RAM - It's unstable. The data continues to move in and out of memory as long as power is available. Information needs to be refreshed after every few milliseconds to avoid it being erased.

b) ROM - storage of program and data. It permanent.

Type of ROM

i) Programmable ROM (PROM) - It's programmable once it's done. After it's been programmed, the recorded info cannot be changed.

ii) Erasable PROM (EPROM) - Info can be erased and the chip programmed to record diff. information.

3. SECONDARY MEMORY / STORAGE DEVICES

Provides back-up storage for instructions and data.

Computers use disks for storage:

Hard disks - located inside the PC and those that are attached to the PC externally. They are non-volatile.

Can be easily removed and attached to other devices e.g. Memory stick, jump disk.

CDs

Cloud storage

A disk drive track - is a circular path on the surface of a disk or diskette on which information is magnetically recorded and from which recorded information is read.

BASICS OF COMPUTER HARDWARE & SOFTWARE

COMPUTER HARDWARE (INPUT & OUTPUT DEVICES)

1 INPUT DEVICES

Hardware component that allow you to enter data, programs, commands and user response into a computer.

- Keyboard - enters text and commands
- Mouse - pointer device
- Scanners - converts physical documents to digital
- Microphone - voice input
- Camera / Webcam - image and video capture
- Touchscreen - Input and display
- Joy stick / Game pad - gaming input
- Barcode reader - reads product codes
- Biometric devices - made up of fingerprints / face scanners

Function of input device:

- Accept user commands
- Capture raw data
- Enable interaction with programs

2 OUTPUT DEVICES

They make the information resulting from processing available for use.

- Displays processed information

Monitor - main visual output

Projector - large screen display

Plotter - prints large diagrams and architectural drawings

Speakers / Headphones - audio output

Printer - produces hard copies ; laser printer - fast high quality

 ink jet - cheaper, good for photos

 dot matrix - impact printing

Function:

Provide visual / audio display

Present result after processing

3 STORAGE DEVICES & MEMORY

Memory unit - stores program and data ; i) Primary memory

ii) Secondary memory

a) Primary Memory (Main memory)

Contains large number of semiconductor cells each capable of storing one bit of information

③ OPERATING SYSTEMS

It's a collection of integrated computer program that provide recurring services to other programs or to the use of a computer.

These services consist of a disk and file management, memory management and device management.

The operating system executes many function to operate computer system efficiently ie.

a) Resource Management

Manages a collection of computer hardware resources by using a variety of programs.

It manages computer system resources : CPU, Primary memory, virtual memory, secondary storage devices, input/output peripherals.

b) Task Management

It manages one program or many within a computer system simultaneously.

Task management program in an OS provide each task and interrupt the CPU operation to manage multitasking capability.

c) File Management

They produce reports on a file.

Manages data files as it contains file management programs that provide ability to create, delete, enter, change, link and access of file.

d) User Interface

Allows user to interact with a computer ie screen design, keyboard command.

④ UTILITY SOFTWARE

Is a system software designed to help analyse, configure, optimize, or maintain a computer.

A single piece of utility software is usually called a utility / a tool.

Usually focuses on how the computer infrastructure operates.

DATA PROCESSING .

Step involved in converting data into information -

1. Collection - gathering raw data .
2. Input - gathering raw data entering data into a system
3. Processing - sorting, calculating, summarizing..
4. Output - presenting results (report, chart)
5. Storage - saving for future use
6. Distribution - sharing information with user .

Data representation in computer .

Computer store everything using binary digit (0 and 1) -
Units :

Bit - smallest unit of data .

Byte - 8 bit .

Kilobyte (KB) - 1024 byte

Megabyte (MB) - 1024 KB

Gigabyte (GB) - 1024 MB

Terabit (TB) - 1024 GB

DATA FILES

Is a collection of related data stored together under one name .

If has a file name and an extension (e.g. report, docx, image) files help to organize and retrieve information quickly .

Types of data files:

- a. Text files - contain readable characters e.g. txt, docx .
- b. Binary files - data stored in binary form e.g. exe, bin, dat .
- c. Image files - jpg, png, gif .
- d. Audio files - MP3, wav, aac .
- e. Video files - mp4, m4v, avi .
- f. Program files - executable or system files . exe, bat .
- g. Database files - db, mdb, igl .
- h. Compressed files - zip, rar, 7z .

f. DATA FILES 3 DATA MANAGEMENT -

Data - refers to facts, symbols, figure or observation that have not yet been processed.

It has no meaning until it is interpreted or organized by
Numbers images, and audio, video
words or letters sensor reading.

X-tics of good data -

Accurate - free from error

Complete - contains all necessary details

Reliable - can be trusted

Timely - available when needed

Consistent - does not contradict itself

Relevant - relate to the subject matter

Types of Data -

According to nature

1. Numerical data - numbers
2. Textual - letters
3. Boolean - TRUE, FALSE, YES, NO
4. Audio - music, recording
5. Image data - photo, scans
6. Video data - moving picture
7. Graphical data - charts, diagrams

After

According to structure

1. Structured data - neatly organised (spreadsheets)
2. Unstructured " - no fixed format (videos, PDFs)
3. Semi-structured - mixture of both (emails, XML files)

Information vs Data -

Information	- Data
Processed data	Raw facts
Has meaning	No meaning

Information = Data + Processing

file Organization Methods -

1 Sequential file Organisation

Records stored data one after the another in order

Best for batch processing

2 Direct/Random file Organisation

Records accessed using a key field.

Fast for large files.

3 Indexed - sequential organization

Combines sequential and direct access -

Uses an index for quick search -

File Management - (activities involved in handling files)

- ✓ Creating file
- ✓ Cloning file
- ✓ Opening and closing file
- ✓ Inserting and retrieving file
- ✓ Recompling file
- ✓ Moving file between folders
- ✓ Deleting file
- ✓ Backing up important data

File extension -

.txt - text

.mp3 - sound

.docx - document

.mp4 - video

.pdf - portable document

.exe - executable

.jpg / .png - image

.xlsx - spreadsheet

File security

Passwords - restrict access

Encryption - scramble data so only authorised can read it

Access rights permission - controls who can read, edit or delete file

Firewalls - block both unauthorized network access

Antivirus software - protect files from malware

System monitor - for monitoring resources and performance in a computer system.
System profile - provides detailed info about the software installed and hardware attached to the computer.

4 COMPILING PROGRAM

A compiler is a computer program that transforms source code written in a programming language into another computer language.

Decompiler - program that translates from a low level language to a high level language.

Main components:

Compiler - does the actual translation of source code into machine code.

Lexical analyser - breaks the code into tokens (words, symbols)

Syntax " - checks if the code follows language rule

Code generator - produces the final machine code

Error handler - shows mistakes in the code

How it works

You write a code in a programming language.

The compiler reads the code and checks for errors.

If everything is correct, the compiler converts the code into machine language.

The computer can now execute the program.

Importance:

They turn human readable programme into executable file.

They help detect errors before the program runs.

They make programmes run faster because machine code is optimized.

Types of Utilities

Anti-virus - utilities scan for computer viruses -

Backup - utilities can make a copy of all information stored on a disk and store either the entire disk or selected files.

Data compression - utilities output a shorter stream or a smaller file when provided with a stream or a file.

Disk checkers - can scan operating hard drive.

Disk cleaners - can find files that are unnecessary to computer operation, or take up considerable amounts of space.

Disk compression - utilities can transparently compress/uncompress the contents of a disk, increasing the capacity of a disk.

Disk fragmenters - can detect computer files whose contents are broken across several locations on the hard disk, and move the fragments to one location to increase efficiency.

Disk partition - can divide an individual drive into multiple logical drives, each with its own file system which can be mounted by the operating system and treated as an individual drive.

Disk Analyzers - for the visualisation of disk space usage by getting the size for each folder and files in folder or drive showing the distribution of the used space.

Archiver - utilities output a stream or a single file when provided with a directory or a set of files.

File managers - provide a convenient method of performing routine data mgmt like moving, copying, merging, renaming, deleting, generating and modifying data etc.

Cryptographic - utilities encrypt and decrypt streams and files.

Hex editors - directly modify the text or data of a file.

Memory testers - check for memory failures.

Network utilities - analyze the computer's network connectivity, configure network system, check data transfer or log events.

Registry cleaners - clean and optimize the windows registry by removing old registry keys that are no longer in use.

file storage devices:-

HDD (Hard Disk Drive) - large capacity, cheaper

SSD (Solid State Drive) - faster, more durable

USB flash drives - portable and convenient.

Memory cards - used in phones / cameras

Optical Discs - CDs, DVDs

Cloud storage - Google Drive, One Drive, iCloud

Data Back-up

Prevent loss of data

Methods:

Full backup - copies everything

Incremental backup - copies only changes since last back up

Differential backup - copies changes since last full backup

Cloud backup - remote servers

External drive - offline back up

Importance of Data File and file Management

Prevents data loss

Ensures quick access to information

Increases efficiency

Improves decision-making

Enhances security and organization

Reduces error in duplication