

# Computer Hardware

Computer hardware refers to the physical parts or components of a computer such as the monitor, mouse, keyboard, computer data storage, hard drive disk (HDD), system unit (graphic cards, sound cards, memory, motherboard and chips), etc. all of which are physical objects that can be touched.

Types of hardware:

There are five main hardware components in a computer system: Input, Processing, Storage, Output and Communication devices.

Computer hardware includes the physical parts of a computer, such as the case, central processing unit (CPU), monitor, mouse, keyboard, computer data storage, graphics card, sound card, speakers and motherboard. By contrast, software is the set of instructions that can be stored and run by hardware.

A monitor or a speaker are output devices that transform processed data into (respectively) video and audio signals. Usually, the core components that represent the bare minimum that allow a computer to function are:

**Processor (CPU)** The component that processes and executes inputs received from hardware and software.

**Motherboard** A mainboard that provides basic connection between all the other hardware components and devices (internal and external).

**Memory (RAM)** A temporary data storage space that stores the information the CPU is actively using.

**Storage device** A storage device where data is stored on a permanent basis. It's slower but less volatile than the RAM.