

(1) Explain the generations of computer.

The evolution of computers is divided into five generations based on technology used in hardware and software development. Each generation brought significant advancements in computing power, efficiency and usability.

**First Generation (1940 - 1956): Vacuum Tubes**

→ Used vacuum tubes for circuitry and magnetic drums for memory.

→ Very large, expensive and generated a lot of heat.

→ Relied on machine language (binary code) for programming.

→ Examples: ENIAC, UNIVAC I.

**Second Generation (1956 - 1963): Transistors**

→ Used transistors instead of vacuum tubes, making computers smaller, faster, and more reliable.

→ Used magnetic core memory for storage.

→ Introduced assembly language.

→ Examples: IBM 1401, IBM 7090.

**Third Generation (1964 - 1971): Integrated Circuits (ICs)**

→ Used integrated circuits (ICs) which combined multiple transistors on a single chip.

→ Allowed for smaller, more powerful, and energy-efficient computers.

→ Introduced high-level programming language like FORTRAN, COBOL.



#### Fourth Generation (1971-present): Microprocessors.

- used microprocessors which integrated all processing functions onto a single chip
- Personal computers (PCs) become common.
- Development of graphical user interfaces (GUI's), networking and the internet.
- examples: IBM, PC, Apple, Macintosh

#### Fifth Generation (present & beyond): Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- focuses on artificial intelligence, machine learning, and quantum computing.
- uses parallel processing, super computers, and advanced Robots.
- incorporates nanotechnology and cloud computing.
- Examples: AI based systems like IBM Watson, Google DeepMind quantum computers.

#### (2) Describe the types of networks.

##### Types of networks:

computer networks are classified based on their size, purpose, and geographical coverage. Below are the major types of networks.

##### Personal Area Network (PAN):

- Definition: A small network designed for personal devices within a short range.
- Range: up to 10 meters.



## 2. Local Area Network (LAN):

### Definition:

A network that connects computers within a limited geographical area, like a home, office, or school.

### Range:

A few hundred meters to a few kilometers.

### Characteristics:

- High-speed data transfer (up to 1 Gbps).
- Uses Ethernet cables (or) WiFi.

### Examples:

- Office network.
- WiFi homes or cafes.

## 3. Metropolitan Area Network (MAN)

Definition: A network that covers a city or a large campus; it is larger than a LAN but smaller than a WAN.

Range: Several kilometers (up to 50 km).

### Characteristics:

- Faster than WAN but slower than LAN.
- Often used by universities, governments, or large companies.

### Examples:

- Cable TV networks.
- Internet services in a city.

#### 4. Wide Area Network (WAN)

##### Definition:

A network that spans a large geographical area such as a country or even the world.

##### Range:

unlimited (can connect continents)

##### Characteristics:

- uses satellites, fiber-optic cables and telephone lines
- slower compared to LAN and MAN due to long distances

##### Examples:

- The Internet (largest WAN)
- corporate networks connecting multiple branches worldwide

#### 5. Campus Area Network (CAN)

##### Definition:

A Network that connects multiple LANs in a university, business park, or military base.

##### Range:

A few kilometers.

##### Examples:

- university storage services.
- enterprise database storage.



(3) Explain and evaluate the five main steps in the main merge Process.

Merge Process in process in MS Word

Mail Merge is a feature in MS Word that allows users to send Personalized letters, emails, or labels to multiple recipients without manually editing each document. The process involves merging a main document with a data source.

5 main steps in the mail merging process

1. Prepare the main document:

- This is the template document (eg. letter, email, label, envelope)
- It contains static text and place holder (merge fields) for personalized content.
- example: A company wants to send an invitation letter to multiple clients.

2. Create (or) select the data source.

- Add data source (excel sheet, word table, Access database) contains recipient details like names, address and emails IDs

3. Insert merge fields.

- Merge fields act as place holders for dynamic content.
- Users insert fields like <<First Name>>, <<Last Name>>, <<Address>> into the document.

4. Preview the merged data:

- Before finalizing, the user preview how each document will look.

5. Complete the Merge & output the documents:

- Once satisfied, the user merges the document and selects the output



#### 4. Describe the purpose and functionality of the conditional formatting Rules Manager.

conditional formatting Rules Manager in Excel.

Purpose:

The conditional formatting Rules Manager in Microsoft Excel allows users to view, edit, delete, and prioritize conditional formatting rules applied to a worksheet. It helps in managing multiple formatting rules efficiently.

Functionality:

##### 1. View existing Rules:

- Display all active conditional formatting rules in the selected worksheet (or range).

##### 2. Create New Rules:

- Users can add new formatting rules based on conditions such as:
  - Highlighting cells greater than a certain value.
  - Applying colors based on text content.
  - Using formulas.

##### 3. Edit existing Rules:

Modify conditions, formatting styles and rule ranges without recreating them.

##### 4. Delete Rules:

- Remove unnecessary or incorrect formatting rules to clean up the spreadsheet.