Types of Computer Systems

**PDA (Personal Digital Assistance)/Palmtop-** A small lightweight and handheld computer used to usually organize personal information. They allow you to connect with the internet and all models have audio. They all come with Personal Information Manager (PIM). You can store contact info, make to do lists, remind you of appointments and perform calculations.

**Tablet-** A portable computer which uses a touchscreen as its primary source for input.

**Phablet-** A tablet that also functions as a phone. It is essentially a smartphone with a screen size being a between that of a regular tablet and smartphone.

**Smartphone-** A mobile cellphone that has advanced capabilities beyond making phone calls and sending/receiving text messages. Many smartphones can run third party applications.

**Netbook/Notebook-** Introduced in the late 2007 as smaller notebooks optimized for low weight and low cost. Omits certain features (e.g. the optical drive), features a smaller screen and keyboard and offers reduced computing power compared to a full sized laptop.

**Laptop –** A portable compact computer that can run on an electrical wall outlet or a battery unit. Has all components are in one compact units (keyboard mouse etc). Sometimes called a notebook.

**Desktop/Microcomputer-** Fits on a desk and runs on power from an electrical wall outlet. It is designed to meet the computer needs of an individual. Provides access to wide variety of computing applications such as word processing, photo editing, email and the internet. The CPU can be housed in either a vertical or horizontal case. It has separate components (keyboard, mouse, etc) that are each plugged into the computer.

**Workstation-** Powerful desktop computer designed for specialized tasks. Can tackle tasks that require a lot of processing speeds. Can also be an ordinary personal computer attached to a LAN.

**Server-** A computer that provides data to other computers over a network (LAN, or sometimes WAN) or over the internet. A computer that has the purpose of supplying its users with data; usually through the use of a LAN networks.

**Mainframe-** A large expensive computer capable of simultaneously processing data for hundreds or thousands of users. Used to store, manage and process large amounts of data that needs to be reliable, secure and centralized. Usually house in a closet sized cabinet.

**Supercomputer-** A computer that was the fastest in the world at the time it was constructed. Can tackle tasks that would not be practical for other computers. Typical uses include breaking codes and modeling weather systems.