**Storage Device**

A storage device is any type of computing hardware that is used for storing, porting or extracting data files and objects. Storage devices can hold and store information both temporarily and permanently. They may be internal or external to a computer, server or computing device.

A storage device may also be known as a storage medium or storage media depending on whether it is seen as discrete in nature (for example, “a hard drive” versus “some hard drive space.”)

There are two different types of storage devices:

* **Primary storage devices:** Generally smaller in size, primary storage devices are designed to hold data temporarily and are internal to the computer. They have the fastest data access speed. These types of devices include RAM and cache memory.
* **Secondary storage devices:** Secondary storage devices usually have larger storage capacity, and they store data permanently. They can be either internal or external to the computer. These types of devices include the hard disk, the optical disk drive and USB storage device**.**

**Example of Storage Devices**

**Magnetic Storage Devices:** Today, [magnetic storage](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/magnmedi.htm) is one of the most common types of storage used with computers. This technology is found mostly on extremely large HDDs or [hybrid hard drives](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/h/hybrid-hard-drive.htm).

* [Floppy diskette](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/f/fdd.htm)
* [Hard drive](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/h/harddriv.htm)
* [Magnetic strip](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/magncard.htm)
* [SuperDisk](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/superdisk.htm)
* [Tape cassette](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/t/tape.htm)
* [Zip diskette](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/z/zipdrive.htm)

### **Optical storage devices**

Another common type of storage is [optical storage](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/o/optidisc.htm), which uses lasers and lights as its method of reading and writing data.

* [Blu-ray disc](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/b/bd.htm)
* [CD-ROM disc](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/cdrom.htm)
* [CD-R and CD-RW disc.](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/cdr.htm)
* [DVD-R, DVD+R, DVD-RW, and DVD+RW disc.](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/d/dvdr.htm)

### **Flash memory devices**



[Flash memory](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/f/flashmem.htm) has replaced most magnetic and optical media as it becomes cheaper because it is the more efficient and reliable solution.

* [USB flash drive, jump drive, or thumb drive.](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/j/jumpdriv.htm)
* [CF (CompactFlash)](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/cf.htm)
* [M.2](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/m2.htm)
* [Memory card](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/memocard.htm)
* [MMC](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/mmc.htm)
* [NVMe](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/n/nvme.htm)
* [SDHC Card](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/sdhc.htm)
* [SmartMedia Card](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/smartmed.htm)
* [Sony Memory Stick](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/memstick.htm)
* [SD card](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/sdcard.htm)
* [SSD](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/ssd.htm)
* [xD-Picture Card](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/x/xdpicture.htm)