

CIC LTD. • Email:- info@cic-ltd.co.uk • Tel:- 0845 8691126

For many people there is confusion about memory in the computer and storage, this guide should try to explain what each is used for and when you would need more.

Analogy

The following is the best way to understand memory, hard disk storage and the difference. If you think of the hard disk as your bookcase, this is where you store all your books that you have. You cannot read a book on the bookcase so to use your book you will normally take it off the bookcase and take it to your desk. You can think of your desk as your computers memory. When you have finished with a book you put it back on the bookcase. Now you only have so much space on your desk so if you want to refer to another book while still having the original one out then you have to make sure there is space on the desk. If you do not have enough space on your desk you are going to be running back and forward swapping books, which is really slow. The more books you want to have open the more space you need to have on the desk. Increasing memory in your computer is like buying a bigger desk so you can have more books open at the same time. Increasing hard disk space is like buying a bigger bookcase so that you can own more books.



Bookcase (Hard Disk Drive)



Desk (Memory)

Memory

Memory is the short-term storage of a computer and the place that programs and data that you are using are held while the computer is running. This is usually quoted in various sizes such as 512MB, 1GB, 2GB etc. Memory also has various different speeds and shapes, it is always important to get the correct one for your machine. If you are unsure of the type you can look it up for your computer if it was made by a standard manufacturer at the following address

<http://www.orcalogic.co.uk/asp/default.asp> or if your machine was made specially for you then you can bring it into a shop when buying your memory and they will provide you with the correct type. Replacing memory with the wrong type can damage your computer so this is important. You will normally increase your memory when your computer is running slow or you want to do more things at the same time when using your computer.

Storage (Hard Disk Drive)

The hard disk drive in the computer is the place all your programs and data are stored while the computer is turned off. Normally you will find these quoted in GB or TB sizes. You will normally only need to replace your hard disk in your computer if you find that you store a lot of programs and data on the machine and the current one is full. A computer company such as ourselves is best suited to handling this type of work for you.