# What's the difference between computer engineering and computer science?

Computer engineers build hardware while computer scientists generally do not. However, computer scientists certainly know enough about hardware to analyze computer system operations and to interact with hardware engineers.

Computer scientists know more about underlying theory of computation, programming languages, and operating systems. While computer engineers often work as programmers, most system level programs such as programming languages and operating systems are designed by computer scientists.

Long story short: if you like pulling things apart and finding out how they work, computer engineering. If you like theorizing and making algorithms, computer science. Both will involve pulling hair out because things don’t work the way you want it, so don’t worry about that!