

1. The Computer System



- What is a computer?
- Data vs. Information
- Uses of computer
- The components of computer
- Basic characteristics of a computer
- Advantages of using computers
- Disadvantages of using computers
- Classification of computers
- Impact of computers on society

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Common computer hardware components include a keyboard, mouse, microphone, scanner, Web cam, printer, monitor, speakers, system unit, hard disk drive, external hard disk, optical disc drive(s), USB flash drive, card reader/writer, memory cards, and modem.

Storage Devices

Storage holds data, instructions, and information for future use. For example, computers can store hundreds or millions of customer names and addresses. Storage holds these items permanently.

A computer keeps data, instructions, and information on storage media. Examples of storage media are USB flash drives, hard disks, optical discs, and memory cards. A storage device records (writes) and/or retrieves (reads) items to and from storage media. Drives and readers/writers, which are types of storage devices accept a specific kind of storage media. For example, a DVD drive (storage device) accepts DVD (storage media). Storage devices often function as a source of input because they transfer items from storage to memory. A USB flash drive is a portable storage device that is small and lightweight enough to be transported on a keychain or in a pocket. The average USB flash drive can