

A computer system is a collection of related components that have been designed to perform the information processing cycle: input, processing, output, and storage.

A system includes both hardware 0 the physical components such as the system unit, keyboard, monitor, and speakers – and software – the programs that run on it.

In a typical computer system, a keyboard and a mouse provide input capabilities. Processing is done by the microprocessor (CPU) on programs and data held in RAM (random access memory). You see the results (output) on a monitor or printer, and a hard disk is typically used for long-term storage.

A computer is an electronic device that performs four poerations: input, processing output, and storage. The four operations, performed in sequential order, are called the information processing cycle.

There are two major categories of computers: computers for individuals and those for organizations. Types of computers for individuals include personal computers (PCs), desktop computers, all-in-one computers, notebooks, subnotebooks, tablet PCs, and handheld computers, such as PDAs and smartphones. Types of computers for organizations include professional workstations, servers, minicomputers, mainframes, and supercomputers.

Computers have advantages and disadvantages. Some advantages include speed, memory, storage, hardware reliability, accuracy, and assistance to those disabilities. Disadvantages include information overload, expense, data inaccuracy, unreliable software, viruses, software piracy, identify theft, loss of jobs to automation, and health problems due to improperly fitting equipment and poorly arranged work environments.

The use of social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, and Twitter is growing daily. Such sites provide a method of connectivity that is inexpensive (most often free), available 24/7, and globally accessible. Businesses have realized the power of such sites and have become users to analyze their customers and keep an eye on competitors.

Computers are creating new job opportunities, shifting labor demand toward skilled workers, helping people complete their work; freeing workers from occupations with hazardous working conditions,

making workflow safer and more efficient, and increasing productivity.

Being a responsible computer user means respecting others when using technology , recycling computer hardware, sharing public computing resources, being aware of computer and Internet overuse, and staying informed about changing technology and its effect on the environment.