

10 TYPES OF COMPUTERS

Introduction To Computers – Technology Applications



There are a lot of terms used to describe computers. Most of these words imply the size, expected use or capability of the computer. While the term computer can apply to almost any device that has a microprocessor in it, most people think of a computer as a device that receives input from the user through a mouse or keyboard, processes it in some fashion and displays the result on a screen. Do you know the different types of computers?

PC



Apple iPad Air

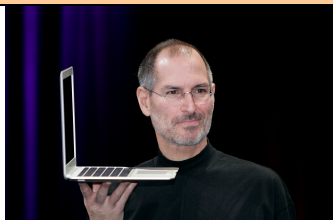
A single person defines the personal computer, or PC, as any computer designed for general use by one person. While a Mac is a PC, most people relate the term with computers that run the Windows operating system. PCs were first known as microcomputers because they were a complete computer but built on a smaller scale than the huge systems in use by most businesses. Personal computers come in many forms, including the new Apple iPad.

DESKTOP



A PC that is not designed for portability is a desktop computer. The expectation with desktop systems is that you will set the computer up in a permanent location, like a desk or table. Most desktops offer more power, storage and versatility for less cost than their portable brethren.

LAPTOP



Also called **notebooks**, laptops are portable computers that mix the display, keyboard, a pointing device or trackball, processor, memory and hard drive all in a battery-operated package slightly larger than an average hardcover book. On the left is a picture of Apple CEO Steve Jobs holding up the MacBook Pro Air.

TABLET COMPUTERS



Tablet Computers are ultra-portable computers that are even smaller than traditional laptops. Their low cost means they're cheaper than almost any brand-new laptop you'll find at retail outlets. However, the internal components are less powerful than those in regular laptops. Recent improvements to tablet computers have allowed users to view HD video, get high quality sound, great photo capabilities, and the ability to share information, photos, and videos with anyone.

SMARTPHONES



Smartphones are handheld-sized computers that often use flash memory instead of a hard drive for storage. These devices usually do not have keyboards but rely on touchscreen technology for user input. Smartphones are typically smaller than a paperback novel, very lightweight with a reasonable battery life. Smartphones have the same capabilities as tablet computers, but also allow users to text or make phone calls.

WORKSTATION



Another type of computer is a workstation. A workstation is simply a desktop computer that has a more powerful processor, additional memory and enhanced capabilities for performing a special group of task, such as 3D Graphics or game development. They may even use multiple screens to enhance their viewing.

SERVER



A computer that has been optimized to provide services to other computers over a network. Servers usually have powerful processors, lots of memory and large hard drives. Servers allow many computers to share a printer or other devices without the cost of having to buy one for every computer. Servers also allow users to share information and files with each other. The computers in this lab are part of a network.

MAINFRAME



In the early days of computing, mainframes were huge computers that could fill an entire room or even a whole floor! As the size of computers has diminished while the power has increased, the term mainframe has fallen out of use in favor of **enterprise server**. You'll still hear the term used, particularly in large companies to describe the huge machines processing millions of transactions every day. Mainframes store vast amounts of information.

SUPERCOMPUTER



This type of computer usually costs hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars. Although some supercomputers are single computer systems, most are composed of multiple high performance computers working in parallel as a single system. Supercomputers are the fastest, most powerful, most expensive computers made today. The best-known supercomputers are built by Cray Supercomputers. Many of today's great movies use supercomputers for their CGI. They can perform over a trillion calculations per second.

WEARABLE COMPUTERS



The latest trend in computing is wearable computers. Essentially, common computer applications (e-mail, database, multimedia, calendar/scheduler) are integrated into watches, cell phones, visors and even clothing. Users can use these devices for health and fitness, navigation, social networking, and gaming. Google can now augment a person's vision through special computer glasses. The glasses can stream information to the lenses and allow the wearer to send and receive messages through voice commands. There is also a built-in camera to record video and take pictures.