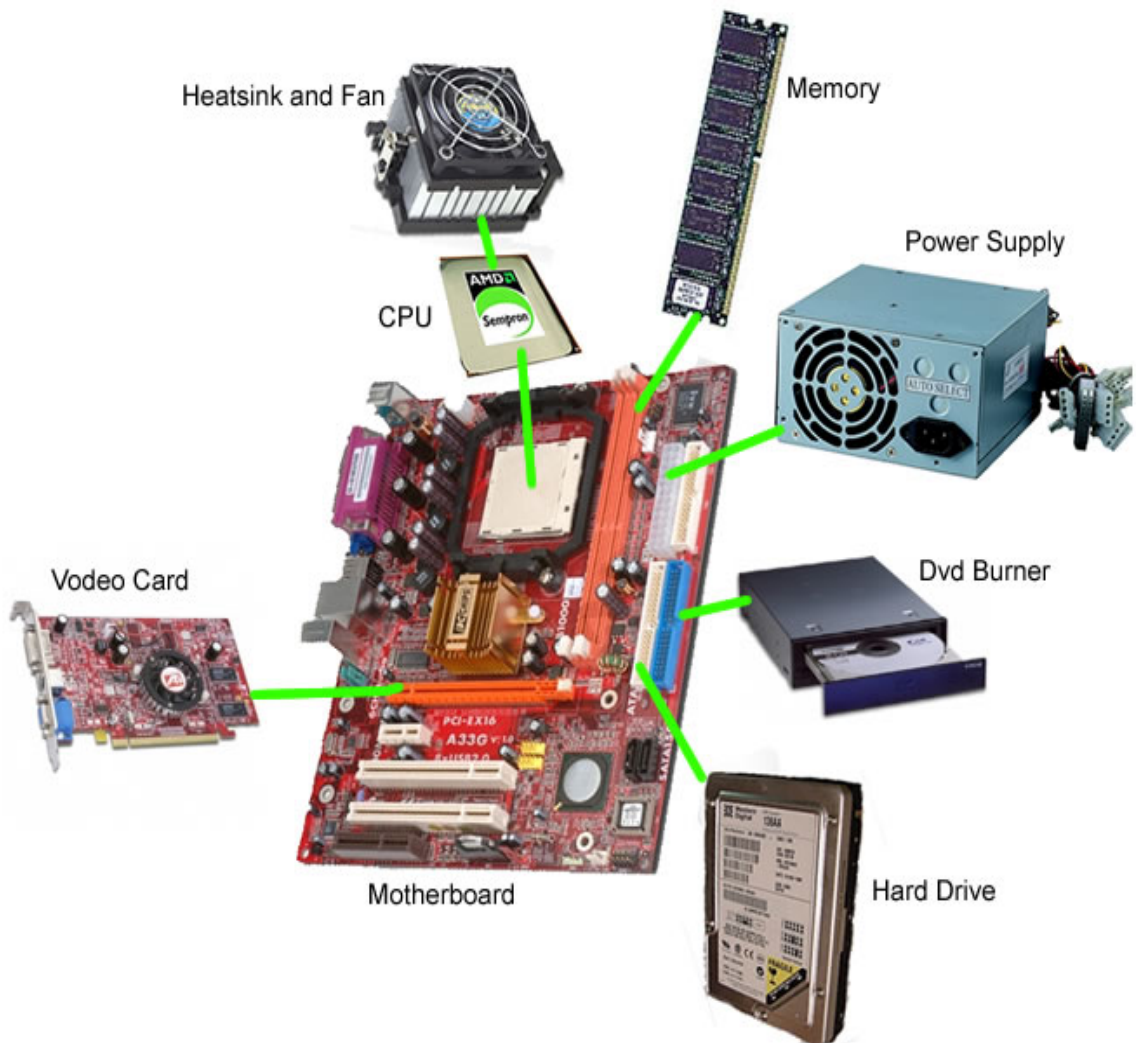


Component Parts of a Computer



(Figure 1 Computer Components Parts)

There are several variations for the definitions of a computer's component parts on the following page.

Computer Components (see Fig. 1 above)

We all know that computers are complex devices, machines made out of an amalgam of electronic parts and parts. But which computer components are crucial for any computer system to run? Modern PCs can even now function fully devoid of Bluetooth or a floppy disk drive. Here is usually a list of [computer components](#) that a laptop or computer method is unable to do without.

* **Motherboard**

It links all of the other key elements of the laptop or computer program together. Consequently, motherboards are at times referred to as the "heart" of a laptop or computer system.

* **CPU**

The central processing unit or CPU may be the computer system component responsible for running applications and applications within the computer system.

* **RAM**

Random Access Memory or RAM is another essential laptop or computer element. It may be the storage media where a personal computer temporarily retailers data files and data that it can pull at random when running applications and applications.

* **HDD**

As opposed for the RAM, the tough disk generate or HDD retailers personal computer documents and data long-term. Even with no energy, the hard drive still retains the files stored in it.

* **Video Card**

A video card enables a computer to display pictures around the pc monitor. It assists speed up the rendering of pictures onscreen and contributes to clearer and detailed pictures.

* **PSU**

The electric power supply unit or PSU supplies all [computer components](#) with power. It converts the large voltages from an AC strength outlet to lower voltages that are safe for internal computer components.

Motherboard: This is the part where other internal components are attached. It attaches all the internal parts of the system together. In some cases it can be said to be the heart of the system since it links all the major parts of the computer system.

HDD (Hard Disk Drive): The main function of a hard disk is to store all the computer files or data for a long duration of time. It stores information even when there is no power. It can save program files, operating system or any other data that may be important to the user including videos or mp3s. The hard disk can be used as a temporary storage facility incase the computer is out of RAM.

RAM (Random Access Memory): A RAM is a temporary storage facility for all information or files wile a computer is running a program or an application. Coupled with CPU, a RAM dictates the speed of the computer. The larger the RAM, the faster the speed despite having an ordinary CPU.

Video Card: Video card helps the computer to put on view all images on the screen of the computer (monitor). It speeds up the display of images on the screen and gives understandable and detailed images.

PSU (Power Supply Unit): PSU ensures that all computer components are supplied with power. It converts high voltage power from an AC source to lower voltage which is safe for a computer. Without the PSU a computer cannot operate.

Adapter: Most of the time it refers to a card that plugs into the motherboard adding special capabilities not originally found on the computer. Other times it refers to tools to convert one connector type to another.

Cables: A thick wire that connects the computer to the external device or power.

Cache: An interface between the CPU and the memory (RAM and ROM). It helps the CPU keep running even though the RAM may be too slow. It does this by keeping a copy of what the processor has read/written.

Card Slot: The slots found on the PC motherboard may be one of five types: ISA, EISA, MCA, VESA & PCI. Slower adapters (like I/O boards) can be ISA. But for the best performance, use VESA or PCI for harddrives, CD-ROMs or Video adapters.

Cards: An option (adapter) which is a printed circuit board that plugs into the motherboard.

CD-ROM: A disk made of plastic and aluminum which can store up to 650MB of data. Usually these disks cannot be written to, instead they often are used to distribute software from companies.

CPU: Central Processing Unit. The “brain” of the computer. It executes commands which, eventually, we see as a response to our input. Without the CPU, the computer is nothing.

Disk : A storage medium to keep data while the computer is turned off.

DRAM: RAM that uses a device called a “capacitor” to store each bit. The problem with this is the capacitor loses the charge very quickly. Therefore, the DRAM has to be “refreshed” to keep the data valid. This is thus far the cheapest RAM.

DVD: The next generation CD-ROM which will store 10-20x the current capacity.

Floppy: A disk that has flexible media (the actual material onto which the data is recorded). The material and flexibility is a lot like that of a cassette tape.

Glidepoint: A mouse-replacement that has a little pad that you can use to move the mouse pointer. Simply glide your finger over the surface and the pointer will move. To “click”, tap the pad. To “double-click” double-tap the pad.

Harddisk: A medium to store data for the computer while the power is out. It uses a hard material (typically aluminum).

Keyboard: A typewriter-like tool that has keys. Sends letters or commands to the computer.

Microprocessor: A CPU that composes only one chip. Some CPUs may actually be several square feet in size; but, the microprocessor is designed to be 100% self-contained in a single chip.

Modem: A device that will let your computer talk to other computers through the telephone line.

Monitor: The CRT or display that shows the words, graphics, etc., to the user. It is a critical part of a user's interface.

Motherboard: A printed circuit board that has (at least) slots to connect cards into. Often, they also include a CPU and memory.

Mouse: An input device which has one to three buttons and when you move it, it causes the arrow in a Windows display to move.

Open Architecture: The original computer companies hid their secrets from competitors by keeping their architecture closed (proprietary). IBM made the IBM PC an open architecture, allowing anyone to make options for it.

Parallel: A type of port which transmits and receives several bits of data at a time (typically 8 bits). Typically used to connect to printers.

Ports: Connectors (usually in the back of the computer) which connect to external devices (e.g. mouse, keyboard, modem, printer, display, etc.)

Power supply: A basic component in the computer that converts the outlet power into power that the computer can use.

Printer: An external device that takes commands and data from the computer to place on paper. There are several types of printers: daisy-wheel, matrix, laser, thermal, inkjet, and plotter.

RAM: "Random Access Memory". A pool of storage for the CPU. It can be written to/read from in any order (unlike a VCR tape which is serial—you have to wind to the place you want). There are several types of RAM: SRAM, DRAM, EDO-RAM.

ROM: "Read Only Memory". Memory that has imprinted in it data and programs for the CPU which cannot be erased or written to.

Scanner: An external device that is able to optically read in printed material—kind of like a copier, but it stores the image on the computer instead.

Serial: A type of port that transmits only one bit at a time. In order to send a byte of data, the data has to be “turned on its side” and send out bit by bit.

SRAM: RAM that does not “lose its mind” if not refreshed. This is typically used in caches. It tends to be much more complicated than DRAM and thus much more costly.

Surge protector: A device that will isolate your computer from outlet power problems (spikes and noise).

Trackball: A mouse replacement that is a small box with a ball in the center. You roll the ball in the direction you want the pointer to go.

Trackpoint: A mouse replacement with a little rubber post between the “g” and “h” keys on some laptop computers. Gently push the post in the direction you want the mouse pointer to go.

UPS: “Uninterruptable Power Supply”. This is a box that is like a surge protector but will keep you going even if you lose power. You can plug your computer into. If you have a brown- or black-out, this unit will keep you running for 3 minutes to an hour (certainly enough time to save your work and shutdown the computer).