

Hardware

Computer Skills

Physics Department

1st year- 2nd Semester

Lecture 2

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A Personal Computer is broadly categorized into two parts

1- Hardware

2- Software.

1- Hardware

- The physical parts of a computer which you can see and touch are called Hardware.
- Hardware is classified further into the following units:

1- Input devices

- **An Input device is any hardware part that allows you to enter data and instructions into a computer.**

Some examples of input devices are as follows:

- **Keyboard:** It is a board containing the keys of letters, numbers and some functions which allows you to type information into the computer.



- **Mouse:** A small hand-held device used to point, select, and click on items and to drag and drop items from one place to another.



- **Scanner:** It allows you to scan pictures, text and images and save it to your computer in a digital form.



- **Web Cam:** It is a digital camera that captures an image through the computer to a computer network.



- **Barcode Reader:** It is a photoelectric scanner that translates the bar code symbols into digital form.



- **Joystick:** Small hand lever that can be moved in any direction to control movement on the screen. It can be used for playing games.



2- Output devices

- Output Devices are the devices used to translate the processed information into a form that humans can understand.

Some examples of output devices are as follows:

- **Monitor** (Computer Screen): Monitor displays the output in terms of text, information or pictures. They come in different sizes and resolution.



- **Printer:** A printer produces a hard copy of the material you are working on. For example: **Laser Printer** and **Ink-jet Printer**.



- **Speaker/Headphones:** They are used to output voice from a computer.



- **Touch Screen:**
- It can be used as both Input and output device at the same time. It receives input from the touch of a finger. For example – smart phones.