

Just Enough and Not Too Many

## Computer Terms to Get You Started



<b>App</b>	Usually refers to mobile device program designed to perform a specific purpose or activity.
<b>Application</b>	Software program that runs on your computer. Web browsers, e-mail programs, word processors, and games are all applications. The word "application" is used because each program has a specific application for the user.
<b>Binary Code</b>	The language used by computers in which data and instructions are represented by a series of 1s and 0s.
<b>Bit</b>	An acronym derived from <u>binary digit</u> . The smallest unit of information that can be recognized by a computer.
<b>Boot</b>	The act of starting up the computer.
<b>Byte</b>	An acronym for <u>binary term</u> . The sequence of bits that represents a character. Each byte has 8 bits.
<b>Computer</b>	An electronic device that is capable of (1) accepting and storing information and (2) processing and producing an output.
<b>CPU</b>	Central processing unit - electronic brains of the computer.
<b>Desktop</b>	What you see on your monitor when no program or file is open. When you boot up your computer, the desktop is displayed once the startup process is complete. It includes the desktop background (or wallpaper) and icons of files and folders you may have saved to the desktop.
<b>Download</b>	Process in which data is sent to your computer. This could be in the form of an e-mail attachment or program file. The opposite of this process, sending information to another computer, is called uploading.
<b>Hard drive</b>	Place where data is stored.
<b>Hardware</b>	Describes the physical parts of a computer which you can physically touch or see such as your monitor, keyboard, disk drives, and mouse.
<b>Icons</b>	Pictures that represent programs or files on your hard drive.
<b>Internet</b>	Global network that allows millions of people to share information. The Internet is maintained by the major Internet service providers.
<b>Memory</b>	Used to provide the temporary storage of information.
<b>Monitor</b>	Hardware that displays programs and files and allows the user to interact with the computer using the keyboard and mouse.
<b>Motherboard</b>	The computer's main circuit board, which contains the central processing unit, the memory, and expansion slots for additional circuit boards called adapters or cards.
<b>Mouse</b>	A hand-operated electronic device used to move a cursor or pointer.

Adapted from <http://www.techterms.com>

<b>Operating System</b>	The main program that controls the computer - such as Windows 7 or later versions.
<b>Peripheral</b>	Any external device that provides input and output for the computer such as keyboard, mouse, printer, digital camera, and flash (travel) drives.
<b>Processor</b>	A small chip that resides in computers and other electronic devices whose basic job is to receive input and provide the appropriate output.
<b>RAM</b>	Random access memory. The computer's temporary memory used when you are using a program or creating something. RAM is erased when you turn off the computer.
<b>Screen</b>	Display electronically created on the surface of the monitor.
<b>Software</b>	Programs that run a computer, such as a word processor, spreadsheet, database, Web browser, or e-mail system.
<b>Surfing the Net</b>	Browsing through various Web sites on the Internet.
<b>Software</b>	Describes the programs that run on your system
<b>Toolbar</b>	Offers instant access to commonly used commands.
<b>Upload</b>	The act of sending data to another computer usually in the form of a computer file or program.
<b>USB</b>	Universal serial bus. The standard input/output port (location) for connecting devices to computers.
<b>Virus</b>	Small malicious programs or scripts that can negatively affect your computer. Most common way to get a virus is opening an infected e-mail attachment.
<b>Website</b>	A Web site is a collection of Web pages. For example, scpl.org is a Web site with numerous Web pages that make up the site.
<b>Wi-Fi</b>	<u>Wireless fidelity</u> . A process that permits high-speed wireless transmission of data.
<b>Window</b>	Area on the screen that displays information for a specific program that includes a title bar along the top that describes the contents of the window and tabs or a toolbar that contains user interface buttons. Most of the window's remaining area is used to display the content.
<b>World Wide Web</b>	One of the many features of the Internet. E-mail and Instant Messaging are also features of the Internet.