

BASICS



Computers come in many forms today, from the large systems used to control our nuclear power stations to the microprocessors running our washing machines. Personally, we may have or need a desk-top, lap-top, note-book, tablet, book-reader, smart-phone, MP3 player etc. What are their particular capabilities and attributes ? What could or would I use them for and which should I buy ?

Basic Terms. When we attempt to choose a new computer we may become confused by their different specifications. What is a bit, byte, pixel, hertz and their multiples tera-, giga-.....nano-, pico- ? How are text characters, their fonts, integers and other numbers defined ? Our language is cluttered with a lot of new jargon – what does it all mean ?