

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, you 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 ?

Accessories. One essential for some might be a printer-scanner-copier – consider the cost of inks too. Some can't manage the touch-pad and prefer to buy and use a mouse. If you intend to use the Internet (see Communications below) you will need a router from that service provider. Music enthusiasts would find a considerable benefit from ear-plugs, earphones or larger speakers. Smart-speakers allow you to request specific topics and to control other devices (lights, curtains etc.) remotely. As you accumulate more files, you may need to consider additional storage devices. All the above need appropriate connectors.

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 kilo-, mega- giga- and tera- ? How are text characters, their fonts, numbers defined ? Our language is cluttered with a lot of new jargon – what does it all mean ?