

Buying a Computer - CLIC - Sep 8, 2014

Computer Acronyms/terms Decoded

1. **Blu-ray Disc** - a optical disc storage medium designed to supersede the DVD format.
2. **CD-R** (Compact Disc-Recordable) - a variation of the optical compact disc which may be written to once.
3. **CD-RW** (Compact Disc-ReWritable) - a variation of the optical compact disc which may be written to many times.
4. **CD-ROM** (Compact Disc Read-Only Memory) - a pre-pressed optical compact disc which contains data or music playback..
5. **Cloud** - The word "cloud" often refers to the Internet, and more precisely to some datacenter full of servers that is connected to the Internet.
6. **Cloud storage** - computers at a remote location from your personal computer where your data is stored and and backed up
 - a. YouTube videos are stored "in the cloud"
 - b. Microsoft "OneDrive" is cloud storage
 - c. Google Drive uses cloud storage
7. **Cloud computing** - applications/programs that don't actually reside on your computer, but are accessed through a browser like Internet Explorer, Chrome or Firefox
 - a. Facebook is cloud computing
 - b. Yahoo & Gmail are cloud computing
 - c. Google Docs (spreadsheet, word processor, etc)
 - d. Microsoft Office Online is a cloud computing application
8. **Computer case(Tower)** - computer chassis, cabinet, box, tower, enclosure, housing, system unit or simply case) - the enclosure that contains most of the components of a computer (usually excluding the display, keyboard and mouse).
9. **CPU** (Central processing unit) - the portion of a computer system that executes the instructions of a computer program.
10. **CRT** - Cathode Ray Tube - older large heavy computer monitor
11. **DVD** (Digital Video Disc or Digital Versatile Disc) - an optical compact disc - of the same dimensions as compact discs (CDs), but store more than six times as much data.
12. **DIMM** (dual in-line memory module) - a type of RAM
13. **DisplayPort** - High Definition connection from a graphics card to a monitor
14. **DVI** - Digital Visual Interface (DVI) is another High Definition connection from a graphics card to a monitor
15. **Firewall** - A hardware device or software to protect a computer from viruses, malware, trojans etc.
16. **Flash drive** - another name for a USB flash drive.
17. **Gigabyte (GB)** - measure of amount of space to store picture, documents, etc
 - a. 1,000 times more space than a megabyte (MB)
18. **Hard drive** - Where you store your pictures, music and documents on your computer
19. **Hard disk** - See hard drive
20. **Hardware** - the physical components of a computer.

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21. **HDMI** (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) - a compact interface for transferring encrypted uncompressed digital audio and video data to a device such as a computer monitor, video projector or digital television.
22. **Input device** - any peripheral equipment used to provide data and control signals to an information processing system.
23. **Keyboard** - an input device, partially modeled after the typewriter keyboard, which uses an arrangement of buttons or keys, to act as mechanical levers or electronic switches
24. **LCD** - Liquid Crystal Display (used for flat screen monitors, smart phones, tablet) display
25. **Malware (Malicious Software)** - Similar in many aspects to viruses. Malware refers to software programs designed to damage or do other unwanted actions on a computer system. In Spanish, "mal" is a prefix that means "bad," making the term "badware," which is a good way to remember it (even if you're not Spanish).
26. **Memory** - another name for Random Access Memory (RAM) temporary place used to run programs like Solitaire, Quicken, TurboTax, etc
 - a. Some people also use this to describe hard disk (hard drive) space
27. **Megabyte (MB)** - measure of amount of space to store picture, documents, etc
 - a. Gigabyte is 1000 megabytes
 - b. Terabyte is 1000 gigabytes
28. **Monitor** - an electronic visual display for computers.
29. **Mouse** - a pointing device that functions by detecting two-dimensional motion relative to its supporting surface.
30. **Network** - a collection of computers and devices connected by communications channels.
31. **Operating system** - the set of software that manages computer hardware resources and provide common services for computer programs.
 - a. Examples are Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8
32. **PDF** - portable document format - Created by the Adobe company to share documents across dissimilar computer operating systems
 - a. i.e. A PDF created on a Mac PC can be read on a Windows and Vice Versa
33. **Pen drive** - another name for a USB flash drive.
34. **Peripheral** - a device attached to a computer but not part of it.
35. **Personal computer (PC)** - any general-purpose computer whose size, capabilities, and original sales price make it useful for individuals, and which is intended to be operated directly by an end user, with no intervening computer operator.
36. **Printer** - a peripheral which produces a text or graphics of documents stored in electronic form, usually on physical print media such as paper or transparencies.
37. **Ports** - a port serves as an interface between the computer and other computers or peripheral devices. This is where you plug in your keyboard, mouse, camera memory chip, network cable, etc
38. **RAM** (random-access memory) - Where computer programs like Facebook, TurboTax, Microsoft Office, etc. run
39. **Server** - a computer which may be used to provide services to clients

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40. **Scanner** - device used to “take” a picture of a document or photo and allow you to print it or store it as a picture or PDF
41. **Software** - computer programs(Quicken, Solitaire, etc) and other kinds of information read and written by computers.
42. **SSD** (Solid-state drive (or solid-state disk or electronic disk)) - a data storage device that uses integrated circuit assemblies as memory to store data persistently.

43. **Terabyte (TB)** - measure of amount of space to store picture, documents, etc
 - a. 1,000,000 times more space than a megabyte (MB)
 - b. 1,000 times more space than a gigabyte (GB)
44. **Thumb drive** - another name for a USB flash drive.
45. **Touchpad or trackpad** - a pointing device consisting of specialized surface that can translate the motion and position of a user's fingers or a stylus to a relative position on a screen.
46. **USB** (Universal Serial Bus) - a specification to establish communication between devices and a host controller (usually a personal computers).
47. **USB flash drive** - a flash memory device integrated with a USB interface. USB flash drives are typically removable and rewritable.
 - a. Synonyms are: flash drive, thumb drive, pen drive

48. **VGA** (Video Graphics Array) - the last graphical standard introduced by IBM to which the majority of PC clone manufacturers conformed.
 - a. Older connections to monitors and projectors
49. **Virus** - a computer program that can replicate itself and spread from one computer to another. The term "virus" is also commonly, but erroneously, used to refer to other types of malware, including but not limited to adware and spyware programs that do not have a reproductive ability.
50. **Webcam** - A webcam is a video camera that feeds its images in real time to a computer or computer network, often via USB, Ethernet, or Wi-Fi
51. **WIFI** - Wireless network for computer to connect to the internet. Various WIFI standards **in terms of increasing network speed** are:
 - a. 802.11a (2 Mbps)
 - b. 802.11b (10 Mbps)
 - c. 802.11g (54 Mbps)
 - d. 802.11n (300 Mbps)
 - e. 802.11ac (450 Mbps - 2.4 GHz)
 - f. 802.11ac (1300 Mbps - 5 GHz)