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# Computer Vocabulary

## LIST #1

**computer** - A programmable electronic device for storing and processing data.  
Learn more here.

**keyboard** - A board made of keys which, along with a mouse, serves as a primary input device for a computer. Learn more here.

**home row** - The keys to which the four fingers of each hand should return as a base when touch typing. Learn more here.

**mouse** - A hand operated pointer device that, along with a keyboard, serves as a primary input device for a computer. Learn more here.

• **menu bar** - The horizontal strip that contains lists of available menus for a certain program. Learn more here.

**program** - Executable software that runs on a computer. Also known as an application. Learn more here.

**website** - A collection of webpages. Learn more here.

**internet** - An international computer network used for many kinds of electronic communications. Learn more here.

**software** - Lines of computer code written by programmers that tell the computer what to do. Also known as a program or application. Learn more here.

**hardware** - the physical parts of a computer and all related devices. Learn more here.

## LIST #2

**intranet** - An internal or private network that is only available in one geographic location. Learn more here.

**MP3** - A popular compressed file format for digital music downloads. Learn more here.

**email** - Messages sent electronically over a computer network. Learn more here.

**byte** - A series of 8 binary bits that digitally represent a single character to the computer. Example: 00000001 = 1 Learn more here.

**kilobyte** - Approximately 1,000 bytes. Learn more here.

**megabyte** - Approximately 1,000,000 bytes. Learn more here.

**gigabyte** - Approximately 1,000,000,000 bytes. Learn more here.

• **drag and drop** - Using a cursor and mouse to select and then move an object on the computer screen to a new location. Learn more here.

**printer** - An output device that produces a paper hard copy from a computer. Learn more here.

**RAM** - Random Access Memory. Running programs from the computer's RAM allows for it to function without any lag time. Learn more here.

## LIST #3

**DOC** - The file extension for a Microsoft Word Document. Note that in more recent versions of MS Word (after 2007) the file extension is DOCX. [Learn more here.](#)

**social networking** - Using the internet to create a virtual community by sharing messages, comments and other information using websites designed for that purpose. [Learn more here.](#)

**desktop** - The primary user interface of a computer from which users can access programs, files and folders. [Learn more here.](#)

**netbook** - A small laptop or notebook style computer in the \$200-\$400 price range that is primarily designed for web surfing. [Learn more here.](#)

**laptop** - Also known as notebook computers. They are portable computers that consist of a screen, keyboard and a mouse device. [Learn more here.](#)

**tablet** - A portable computer that uses a touchscreen as the primary input device instead of a keyboard and/or mouse. [Learn more here.](#)

**smartphone** - A mobile phone with advanced functions beyond just making phone calls and sending text messages (SMS). [Learn more here.](#)

**URL** - Stands for "Uniform Resource Locator". It is the address of a specific website or file on the internet. [Learn more here.](#)

**webcam** - A video camera used to broadcast streaming or still video using the internet. [Learn more here.](#)

**e-reader** - Refers to a portable hardware device that is designed to display textual data like e-books, electronic magazines and digital newspapers. [Learn more here.](#)

## LIST #4

**world wide web** - The collection of webpages on the internet that can be accessed by a program called a web browser (such as Internet Explorer, Chrome, Safari or Firefox). Learn more here.

**WYSIWYG** - Stands for "What You See Is What You Get" and refers to software that accurately shows you what something will look like when it is printed. Learn more here.

**operating system** - The software that communicates with the hardware and allows other programs to run. (such as Windows XP, Windows 7, Apple OS X)

**privacy rights** - The right to be protected from unwanted or unsanctioned intrusions. Learn more here.

**touchscreen** - A display that also serves as an input device that can be used with a special pen device or fingers. Learn more here.

**spreadsheet** - A document that stores data in a grid of horizontal rows and vertical columns. Each cell can store a unique instance of data. Learn more here.

**ISP** - Stands for "Internet Service Provider" and it is the company that you contract with to supply you with a connection to the internet. Learn more here.

**hard drive** - A stack of rigid disks, usually inside the computer, where data is stored magnetically. Learn more here.

**spam** - Unwanted and unsolicited "junk" email or irrelevant postings to a newsgroup or blog. Learn more here.

**GUI** - Stands for "Graphical User Interface" and is pronounced "gooey". It refers to the graphics on the screen that allows users to click, drag and drop with a mouse instead of using the command prompt. Learn more here.