

# **Basic Computer Terms and Definitions**

## **Computer**

A computer is a device that executes a program or programs.

## **CPU**

The central processing unit or CPU, also known as the microprocessor or processor is the brain of the computer.

## **Operating System – Windows**

The operating system (OS) is the software that communicates with the computer hardware. No software can be run on the computer without the operating system

## **Software – A program application**

Software is a program application; which provides the computer with step-by-step instructions to perform a specific task. A computer cannot function without software.

## **Monitor**

The **computer monitor** is computer screen or display unit. Types of monitors are CRTs (large & heavy) and flat screens (compact & light).

## **Desktop**

Is the display on the monitor/screen.

## **Icon**

An icon is a small, clickable picture that opens programs on a computer.

## **Mouse**

Is a hand held device that helps you control the pointer on the desktop/screen.

## **Keyboard**

Is the device used in typing in the words, numbers and to perform tasks. You can also use shortcuts using the keyboard to perform tasks quicker.

## **CD (Compact Disc) & USB Flash Drive**

used for storage of computer files or for media

## **File**

A file is a block of information includes word documents, pictures, music, etc. Each file is differentiated with the help of a unique file name.

## **Folder**

The folder is a system that helps in organizing the files, programs and projects on the computer. It is similar to organizing files on a shelf in your cabinet.

## **Hard Drive**

The hard drive is the device where the information is stored.

## **Hardware**

Is the physical pieces of a computer; monitor, keyboard, mouse, printer, computer unit, scanner, etc.

## **Browser**

The [web browser](#) is software that you use to access the internet/World Wide Web. Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Mozilla's Firefox are 2 examples of the browsers.

## **Internet**

The Internet is a worldwide network that helps connect millions of users around the world to share and exchange data, information, opinions, etc.

## **World Wide Web (WWW) also known as just the web**

Is a service that is provided on the Internet for the users.

## **Peripherals**

Peripherals are the input/output devices that are connected to the computer. The keyboard, mouse and printer are computer peripherals.

## **Networks**

A network is a physical or logical construction that connects different computers together and helps them communicate.

## **Virus**

A computer virus is a program that is designed to harm the computer. They are basically the same thing as human viruses.

## **Download or Downloading**

A download is a file, program or document that is transferred from one computer to another.

## **Spam Mail & Scams**

Spam mail is pretty much business or people sending advertisements of their get rich quick schemes or their products to try. They are designed to **trick** you into giving away your money or your personal details.

## **Surfing the internet**

Jumping from page to page on the Web. Just as in "TV channel surfing," where one clicks the remote to go from channel to channel.

**Modem**

A modem is something that is connected to a computer to connect it to the internet or other networks. This is typically in the form of a small box that you get from your provider.

**Reboot**

To restart your computer. To do a soft reboot to your computer. Go to Start Menu, and select either Shut Down or Restart.

Or if that doesn't work - press the Ctrl, Alt and Del buttons at the same time. A task window will appear, click Shut Down.

The last resort, turn it off; hold in the power button until it shuts off, this is called a hard shut down.

**Crash**

A serious computer failure; the computer itself stops working or that a program aborts unexpectedly. A crash signifies either a hardware malfunction or a very serious software bug. If your computer crashes, it is usually not your fault.