

## 1. Meaning of computer

The origin the word computer is taken from Latin, meaning "to reckon or to compute". Computer is an electronic device which converts raw data into meaningful information. That is the computer is a machine that accepts data as its input, processes it and produces the desired result as output.

## Areas of computer applications ?

Computers are used in day-to-day life to simplify the procedures and practices in the world. Some of the important applications of computers are :-

1. Entertainment
2. Education
3. Inventories
4. Music and Engineering
5. Transport and communication.
6. Banking and accounts.
7. Defense.
8. Hospitals.

Fields such as scientific research, business applications, industrial applications, ~~metamology~~ ,

Space technology, communication, public utilities, telephone, medicine, law and order, libraries, museums and education use computers to a maximum extent payroll preparation.

Database is normally developed by a firm for purpose of preparing pay in firms and organisations. pay details such as basic pay, dearness allowance, house rent allowance, city compensating allowances, medical allowance, leave salary, deduction, income tax provident fund, insurance premium etc are accurately computed and classified the computers

Education:

Computers are used to help teaching process in all the subjects in an interesting way. Computers are extremely useful as a source of teaching and learning. Instructions are stored and structured carefully to each specific lessons in schools and colleges. Programs are designed to manage the learning process. To test for particular skill and knowledge and

then to direct the student to next learning phase. Timetables and work allotment records are maintained in computers.

### Entertainment:

Computers are also used for entertainment by kids. They also provide various types of entertainment to all ages and groups. Children enjoy games and various types of self-operating sports and races. Entertainment gives more relief by easing tension and stress.

### Inventories:

Stock maintenance is at present done by computers in an efficient way. Many software systems have emerged for modernized inventory management. Just-in-time manufacturing, online order processing, supply chain management etc are done with the help of computers.

### Music and Engineering:

The field of music uses computer to a maximum extent. Computers store and set various notes and tunes efficiently.

and accurately

Order processing:

supply chain management is at present developing very fast. computers process orders in an efficient way. customers records and their history are analyzed.

Transparent and communication

staff duties and work schedules are completely maintained by computers in routine manner. Many traffic control, safety aspects, loading and measurement aspects are also done with the use of computers in airways. Railways and roadways are also using computers. cargo and passenger movements are closely monitored.

Banking and accounts:

final transactions are maintained with the help of computers. Home banking, tele-banking and anywhere banking are made possible only by way of computers.

Defense:

Modern computer technology is used by defense in excellent manner. computers are

based to trace defense secrets and maintain secret records of weapons.

### Insurance

Computers handle the activities in insurance company efficiently. Data relating to premium, billing and claims are carried out efficiently. Actuary analysis, Agency reporting and claim processing are also done with the help of computers.

### Hospitals

Most of the medical equipments at present are computer-aided equipments. Patients health status and relevant records are stored in computers for easy reference and retrieval. The computers are designed in such a way to inform medical and paramedical staff about the health conditions of the patients.

### Libraries and Museums :

Book catalogue, author catalogue and subject catalogue are maintained in computers in libraries. Museums are also using computers for cataloguing and indexing of all exhibits.

## Scientific Research

Research in the modern days, depends on computers and computer-based analysis. Computers have the capability of calculating beyond human possibilities. All research and educational institutions are having computers. Research in physics, chemistry, astronomy, genetic and various areas use computers for analytical purpose.

## Industrial application

Around 70 percent of industries, at present depend on computer-based planning, co-ordination and control. Numerically controlled machine tools and taps control production aspects. Industries such as electricity, steel, printing, paper and engineering design also use computers. There is proper evaluation of projects, time-saving and reduction in fault rate due to the presence of computers in industries.

## Meteorology

Computers do data collection and analysis in meteorology field. They render valuable services to this science, especially for fishing, shipping.

air travel, weather, forecast, storm  
rescue operations, agriculture and industries  
space technology:

Computers are playing important roles in  
space technology. The rapid developments of  
space technology are mainly due to developments  
in the field of computers and due to speed and  
computing efficiency.

Communication:

Computers play a significant role in modern  
communication systems. Communications in air-  
travel, air-traffic control, training of pilots,  
reservation, time-table, crew scheduling,  
cargo handling etc. are done efficiently  
by computers.

Public utilities:

Records of governmental and public  
services are now being stored and processed  
by using computers. Information collection and  
classification are efficiently done. Computers  
carry out routine administrative works  
such as preparation and printing of state,  
bills, gas, electricity, telephone bills,



for maintaining and issuing driving licences and for registration of vehicles, public health, social services, judiciary and educational areas are using computers for extensive activities.

Telephones:

Telephone exchanges were earlier managed manually. Now they have been modified as computerized exchanges. They handle lot of calls quickly and long distance calls are handled more efficiently and quickly.

Medicine:

Computers in hospitals are maintaining inventories of drugs, equipments, pay rolls, accounts, time schedules etc. Scanning and advanced equipments are used with the help of computers for effective diagnosis.

Law and order:

Records in relation to accidents, vehicle owners, wanted criminals, fingerprints, criminal history etc, are maintained by police personnel in computers for easy and quick accessibility. Forensic science experts also use computers.

## INPUT AND OUTPUT DEVICES

### Input devices

The input devices are used to feed information to the computer. There are several type of input devices.

1. Keyboard
2. floppy disk
3. Tape drives
4. punched card devices
5. paper tape reader
6. cassette circuit
7. Magnetic tape
8. MICR, OMR, OCR, BCR
9. Visual display unit
10. Light pen.
11. Mouse joystick
12. Touch screen
13. Microphone
14. Compact Disk.

### punched cards:

punched cards are developed by

Herman Hollith in 1889.

It is divided into 12 rows and 80 columns.  
One character represents the one column.

Its speed is slow when compared to CPU.  
At present, column cards are also available.  
Keyboard:

Keyboard is an important input device.  
It has alphabet keys, separate number keys, and is  
of the same manner in type of write machine.

There are many special character keys  
such as +, -, \*, /, \, ], [ , { , } special keys.  
Such as Home, End, Insert, Delete, Space  
bar, caps lock, tab, page up, down.

Paper tape:

The paper tape is "1" wide and has 300  
metres length. Information are stored in  
punched holes.

One row represents the row column.  
Inserting data is very difficult and takes  
more time.

## Joystick

Joystick is used to provide input to the computer. It has long handle can move all directions.

The device has four switches for four directions of movement. It is most popular device in video games.

## Track Ball

It is controlled the cursor movement. The ball is rotated in all directions.

## Touch screen

Touch screen registers input when a finger. location of fingers is sensed by computers.

## Light pen

It is used to select a displayed menu option. It is a pointer device is and is like a pen which identified the menu option.

computer aided designs and graphics can be easily by lightpen.

It is easier to enter data into computer.

## MOUSE:

Mouse also a pointer device Its alternate to the keyboard. It is used for games and graphics.

two or three buttons left, right

## Floppy disk:

Floppy disk circular piece thin plastic material with 8-inch diameter. This was introduced by IBM during 1970 its storage device.

## OUTPUT DEVICES:

The data fed into a computer are processed as per the instructions given to the computer and provides data into the form of output

1. visual display unit
2. printers
3. tapes.
4. plotters
5. speaker synthesizes.

Some of the output devices:

1. card punching machine

- 3 paper tape punching machine
- 3 magnetic tape
- 4 magnetic disk
- 5 visual display unit
- 6 floppy disk
- 7 Electronic tele type unit
- 8 Dot Matrix printer
- 9 Ink jet printer
- 10 Laser printer
- 11 Daisy wheel printer
- 12 Graph plotter or x-y plotter
- 13 Magnetic Ink character printer
- 14 optical printer