

# What's that Mean?

**bit** – the smallest unit of information a computer can process; bits are also called “binary digits”

**BIOS (Basic Input/Output System)** – a chip inside your computer that gives information about your computer to the operating system

**browser** – a program that enables you to look at documents on the web

**byte** – one byte is one character (a number, a letter, or a symbol); one byte equals 8 bits

**case** – the box that holds all the internal parts

**CD-ROM** – (Compact Disk – Read Only Memory) – storage medium that holds large amounts of data

**CD-ROM drive** – a device used for reading CD-ROMs

**CPU – (Central Processing Unit)** – the collection of all the parts inside the case, including the case

**database** – files containing a collection of information

**debugging** – removing “bugs” or mistakes in the code

**digitize** – the process of changing information into number codes that can be read by a computer

**digital camera** – a camera that produces images in digital form instead of on photographic film.

**domain** – a name that identifies a particular Internet computer

**E-mail** – electronic mail

**floppy disk** – secondary storage medium that holds small amounts of information

**hard drive** – the primary device that stores information in a computer; most hard drives today can store at least 1 gigabyte (that's 1,073,741,824 bytes of information)

**hardware** – any part of a computer system that you can see or touch.

**HTML (HyperText Markup Language)** a programming language that is used to format web page documents so any browser can read them.

**input** – a device that lets you enter information and issue commands to the computer; examples are a keyboard, a mouse, and a joystick

**ISP (Internet Service Provider)** – a company that provides you access to the Internet

**keyboard** – a device that lets you type information and instructions into a computer

**memory** – short term storage of data

**microprocessor** – the part of the computer known as the “Brain”. Because of it controls what the computer does.

**modem** - a device that lets computers communicate through the telephone lines; most people connect to the Internet using a modem

**monitor** – a device that displays a visual image

**motherboard** – contains all components that are necessary to the computer to operate correctly.

**mouse** – a pointing device

**multimedia** – a computer presentation combining graphics, sound and animation

**network** – a number of computers and other devices that are linked together so they can share information and equipment.

**network card** – an add-on card that allows a computer to communicate with other computers and devices on the network.

**operating system** – a software program that controls the overall activity of a computer; Windows, MASOS, OS2, MS-DOS, UNIX and Linux are all different operating systems

**output** – a device that gives you information by displaying it on a screen, in a printed copy or through sounds; a monitor, printer and speakers are output devices

**page layout** – how text is displayed on a page

**parallel port** – a connection point, usually on the back of your computer, that has 25 holes and is known as a female connector; printers are usually connected to a parallel port

**PDA (personal Digital Assistants)** – a small computer that fits in your pocket

**peripheral** – any piece of hardware attached to a computer, such as a printer or scanner

**presentation software** – software used to create slide shows, such as PowerPoint or Presentations

**printer** – an output device that makes a hard copy of your information

**printer cable** – connects CPU to printer

**printer cartridge** – the part that holds the ink or toner in the printer

**processor** – brains of the computer; can be a Pentium, 486, etc.

**public domain information** – information that anyone can use because it does not belong to a particular person or organization

**RAM (Random – Access Memory)** – stores the basic data need to run the computer and to control the way the computer works

**resolution** – refers to the quality of images produced by a laser printer; the range is 200 to 1,200 dots per inch (dpi)

**ROM (Read-Only Memory)** – stores the basic data need to run the computer and to control the way the computer works

**scanner** – a device that digitizes pictures and stores them as computer files.

**search engine** – a program that locates Web pages with particular words or phrases

**serial port** – a connection point, usually on the back of your computer, that has either 9 or 25 pins and is known as a male connector; a mouse or joystick is usually connected to a serial port

**server** – a computer that does tasks for other computers on a network; ; ISPs have servers that allow you to connect to the Internet

**spreadsheet** – a program that performs calculations within columns and rows

**software** – a set of electronic instructions that tells a computer what to do

**sound card** – interprets the information into an audible sound

## It's How Big?

1 byte = 8 bits

1 kilobyte = 1,024 bytes

1 megabyte = 1,024 kilobytes

1 gigabyte = 1,024 megabytes