


Year 9 Computing—Understanding Computer Systems

A Computer is made up of...	
Hardware	Items of a computer system that can be touched. E.g. Disks, monitor, keyboards, motherboard. You can 'touch' hardware.
Software	Refers to programs that run on a computer. You cannot 'touch' software.
Input device	A device that allows data to be entered into a computer. E.g. Mouse, keyboard.
Output device	A device that allows data to be displayed or output from a computer. E.g. printer, speakers.
Storage device	A device that permanently holds data.

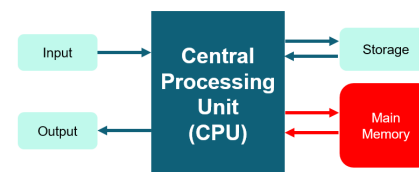
Units of Memory	
Bit	A single binary digit. A 0 or a 1.
Nibble	4 bits
Byte	8 bits
Kilobyte	1000 bytes
Megabyte	1000 kilobytes
Gigabyte	1000 megabytes
Terabyte	1000 gigabytes
Petabyte	1000 terabytes



Number Systems	
Binary	A base 2 number system. It only has two symbols, 0 or 1
Denary	A base 10 number system. The number system we regularly use. Has the symbols 0 to 9

Internal Parts of a Computer (Inside the box)	
Motherboard	The main circuit board of a computer that holds most of the components of the computer together
Processor/CPU	This processes all the instructions in the computer needed to perform a task.
Random Access Memory (RAM)	A temporary storage for the computer. It stores unsaved works and open programs.
Hard Drive	A storage device that holds data permanently for when the computer is switched off.
Graphics Card	Processes all of the instructions to do with graphics on the screen. Takes the load off the CPU

The components of a computer



Fetch – Decode – Execute cycle

