

Hardware/Software Glossary

Antivirus Software	Computer software used to prevent, detect and remove malicious software
Audio Jacks	A socket for connecting audio equipment to a receiver or computer.
BIOS	Basic Input Output System (BIOS) is the term used to describe an important chip on the computer's motherboard, which contains a firmware program that governs the startup of all other components (including hardware such as the drives, keyboard, and monitor) and software (including the operating system). The BIOS prepares the computer to run the operating system and other software when the computer "boots up." The BIOS can also play a role in computer security. Most BIOS software versions have the option to password-protect the boot process, which means that you must enter a password before any BIOS activity can take place. With the BIOS performing virtually all of its functions during startup, this effectively password-protects the operation of the whole computer. However, resetting a lost BIOS password can be time-consuming and involve working on some of the computer's most sensitive components.
"Bloatware"	Unwanted software, often pre-installed on new computers or devices from the manufacturer. Sometimes "bloatware" uses excessive memory or other resources, slowing down the computer or device's performance.
Bluetooth	A telecom standard for computers and mobile devices sharing information wirelessly across short distances.
Broadband	Broadband is the word used to, generally speaking, describe high-speed telecommunications and, more specifically, high-speed internet. Operating at, responsive to, or comprising a wide band of frequencies <a broadband radio antenna> ; of, relating to, or being a high-speed communications network and especially one in which a frequency range is divided into multiple independent channels for simultaneous transmission of signals (as voice, data, or video)
Category 5 Cable	Cat 5 is a twisted pair cable for carrying signals. This type of cable is used in structured cabling for computer networks such as Ethernet. The cable standard provides performance of up to 100 MHz and is suitable for 10BASE-T, 100BASE-TX (Fast Ethernet), and 1000BASE-T (Gigabit Ethernet). Cat 5 is also used to carry other signals such as telephony and video.
Category 5e Cable	The category 5e specification improves upon the category 5 specification by tightening some crosstalk specifications and introducing new crosstalk specifications that were not present in the original category 5 specification. The bandwidth of category 5 and 5e is the same – 100 MHz. The differences between category 5 and

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	category 5e are in their transmission performance. Category 5e components are most suitable for a high-speed Gigabit Ethernet. While category 5 components may function to some degree in a Gigabit Ethernet, they perform below standard during high-data transfer scenarios.
Category 6 Cable	A standardized cable for Gigabit Ethernet and other network physical layers that is backward compatible with the Category 5/5e and Category 3 cable standards. Compared with Cat 5 and Cat 5e, Cat 6 features more stringent specifications for crosstalk and system noise. The cable standard provides performance of up to 250 MHz and is suitable for 10BASE-T, 100BASE-TX (Fast Ethernet), 1000BASE-T/1000BASE-TX (Gigabit Ethernet) and 10GBASE-T (10-Gigabit Ethernet).[
Desktop Computer	A computer intended to be stationary that is generally plugged into an external power source (wall outlet). The traditional or “Stand-Alone” desktop consists of a “tower,” which is the computer and all its internal components, connected to a monitor, keyboard, mouse and other peripherals. An “All-in-One” computer generally has the computer’s internal components integrated into a single unit with the monitor, although the keyboard and mouse remain peripheral.
Device Driver	In computing, a device driver (commonly referred to as a driver) is a computer program that operates or controls a particular type of device that is attached to a computer. A driver provides a software interface to hardware devices, enabling operating systems and other computer programs to access hardware functions without needing to know precise details of the hardware being used. (Wikipedia)
Display	A monitor or screen on a computer or mobile device.
DVI Port	D igital V ideo Interface connectors are used to deliver high-quality video signal. The technology uses TMDS (Transition Minimized Differential Signaling) to send digital information from a computer to a digital display, such as a flat-panel LCD monitor.
Endpoint	Anything that attached to the network, including PC, laptop, tablet, phone, iPod, etc.
Ethernet	A computer network architecture consisting of various specified local-area network protocols, devices, and connection methods
Ethernet Port	An Ethernet port is an opening on computer network equipment that Ethernet cables plug into. Ethernet ports accept cables with RJ-45 connectors
Firmware	Permanent software programmed into a read-only memory
Hard drive	A high-capacity, self-contained storage device containing a read-write mechanism plus one or more hard disks, inside a sealed unit.
Hardware	Physical components of a computer or computing device.
HDMI	HDMI stands for High Definition Multimedia Interface. This technology carries the same video information as DVI but adds the capacity for digital audio and control signals as well.
Heat Sink	A device for absorbing or dissipating excessive or unwanted heat inside a computer.
IEC Connector	A desktop computer’s power cord. The IEC 320 C13/C14 connectors are based on standards created by the International Electrotechnical Commission, an international

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	standards body. The C13 line socket is very common in the PC and A/V industry. The mating connector for the C13 socket is the C14 plug, which is often mounted into a recessed panel.
Internet Service Provider (ISP)	An organization that provides services for accessing, using, or participating in the Internet. Internet service providers may be organized in various forms, such as commercial, community-owned, non-profit, or otherwise privately owned.
Laptop Computer	A laptop computer is intended to be portable, and generally includes a rechargeable battery as an internal power source. All of the computer's internal components are integrated with a monitor, keyboard and touch pad (in lieu of a mouse).
Local Area Network (LAN)	A local area network (LAN) is a computer network that interconnects computers within a limited area such as a home, school, computer laboratory, or office building, using network media.
Motherboard	A printed circuit board containing the principal components of a computer or other device, with connectors into which other circuit boards can be slotted.
Operating System	An operating system (OS) is system software that manages computer hardware and software resources and provides common services for computer programs. The operating system is a component of the system software in a computer system. Application programs usually require an operating system to function. (Wikipedia)
Optical Drive	A disk drive that uses laser light or electromagnetic waves within or near the visible light spectrum as part of the process of reading or writing data to or from optical discs.
Parallel Port	A connector for a device that sends or receives several bits of data simultaneously by using more than one wire.
Processor or CPU	The part of a computer in which operations are controlled and executed.
PS/2 Port	Old school 6-pin port (replaced by USB for almost everything) but still exists in some areas. Used to connect keyboards and mice
RAM	R andom A ccess M emory, a type of computer memory that can be accessed randomly; that is, any byte of memory can be accessed without touching the preceding bytes. RAM is the most common type of memory found in computers and other devices, such as printers.
Router	A networking device that forwards data packets between computer networks. A router is connected to two or more data lines from different networks.
Software	A set of instructions for a computer to perform specific operations, written in a specific code that is read as part of the computer's function.
USB	Universal Serial Bus (What's a bus? In technology, a "bus" —derived from Latin omnibus "all-encompassing"—is a communication system that transfers data between components inside a computer, between computers, or between a hardware component (printer, external drive, etc.) and a computer. USB was created

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	by a forum of staff from major technology companies in the early 1990s to replace older connections such as serial ports. Unlike its predecessors, USB provides both data transfer and power—eliminating the need for individual device power supplies for some peripheral devices.
VGA Port	A Video Graphics Array (VGA) connector has 15-pins arranged in three rows. It is found on many video cards, computer monitors, and high definition television sets. On laptop computers or other small devices, a mini-VGA port is sometimes used in place of the full-sized VGA connector.
Video Card	Also “graphics card;” a printed circuit board controlling output to a display screen.
WiFi 802.11x	802.11 and 802.11x refers to a family of specifications developed by the IEEE for wireless LAN (WLAN) technology. 802.11 specifies an over-the-air interface between a wireless client and a base station or between two wireless clients. The IEEE accepted the specification in 1997. WiFi uses tiny radios to send and receive information.
WiFi Card	A wireless adapter inside of a computer enabling wireless internet access.
Wireless Access Point (AP)	is a device that allows wireless devices to connect to a wired network using Wi-Fi, or related standards. The AP usually connects to a router (via a wired network) as a standalone device, but it can also be an integral component of the router itself.

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