

Parts of A Computer

Part I
A Consumer Overview

A Standard Computer Set-Up

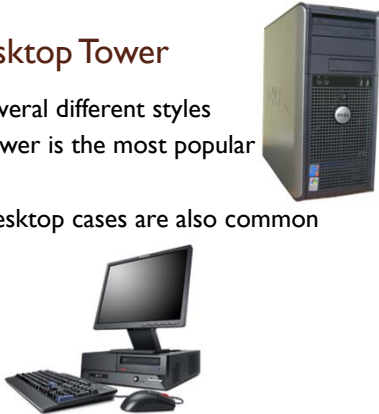
As a consumer, a computer consists of:

- A desktop tower
- A keyboard
- A mouse
- A monitor
- and more
- LOTS more ...



Desktop Tower

- Several different styles
- Tower is the most popular
- Desktop cases are also common




All-In-One Computer

- Current design trend: All-In-One
- iMac product line is the most recognized by consumers, but not the only one




Back of a Computer Tower



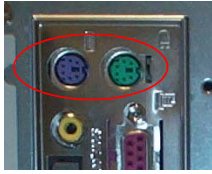
- All different types of connection ports
- Most of them are "plug it and forget it" ports
- Only encounter them when you set up or take down a computer

Back of a Computer Tower



- Power plug
- Main Power Switch
 - Turns the whole thing on or off
 - Only use it when moving the computer or opening the case
- Power supply vent

Ports – Keyboard and Mouse



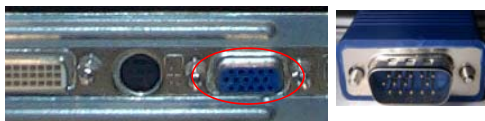
- PS/2 – older style keyboard and mouse ports
- Newer USB devices require an adaptor
- Quirks:
 - Reboot if unplugged
 - Slower than USB for fast gaming

Ports – Video Display

- Connecting your monitor to one of these ports
- You may hook up 2 or more screens
- Four main types
 - VGA
 - DVI
 - Display Port
 - HDMI



Display Ports - VGA



- Video Graphics Array (VGA)
 - Also called D-sub 15
 - Carries analog signals from computer to monitor
 - Lower quality than DVI, more noise
- Corresponding M – F pair

Display Ports - DVI



- Digital Visual Interface (DVI)
 - Can transmit both digital and analog signals
 - Better quality when transmitting digital signals
 - Less noise and more precise information
 - With an adaptor, DVI cables and ports can be converted to VGA

Display Ports – Display Port

- Designed to replace VGA and DVI interface
- Digital “packetized” signal
 - Take a large chunk of information and cut it into smaller “packets”
 - Easier to transport these signals and extensible
- Has a “Mini” version



Display Ports - HDMI

- High Definition Multimedia Interface
- Transmit uncompressed digital audio/video signals
- Mainly used on HDTVs, gaming consoles, and now some PCs

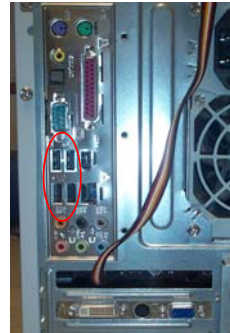


Ports - Audio



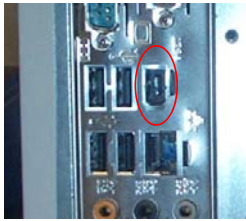
- Your audio/sound in and out
- Colour-coded
- Pink – microphone
- Green – speakers
- Blue – line input

Ports - USB



- Universal Serial Bus
- Connects to many modern peripherals
 - Printer
 - Scanner
 - Flash drive
 - USB kb and mouse
 - [Numerous USB gadgets](#)
- Fast speed
- Supplies power to devices (minimal)

Ports - Firewire



- Firewire, a.k.a. IEEE 1394
- Also fast
- Slightly differently shaped than USB ports
- Also carries power
- Daisy chain devices
- Not as popular

Ports – Ethernet (network)

- Connects to your high-speed modem or network router
- Looks like a telephone jack, but bigger
- 8 pins
- Usually has indicators. They blink when connected

