

Types of hardware in computer

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Computer hardware includes the physical components of a computer system, essential for its functionality and performance¹²³.

Understanding these components is crucial for optimizing computer performance and making informed decisions about upgrades and maintenance¹²³.

Your computer system consists of hardware and software. But what hardware is might not be straightforward in all cases. Are your CPU and GPU hardware? What about the power cable? This article will explore the subject in depth and settle some common misunderstandings.

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Every piece of computer hardware is a physical object. It can be made of different materials, have specific dimensions or shape, and serve a variety of purposes. However, as long as it's tangible and a part of your computer system, it's considered hardware.

To answer the question from the introductory passage, your central processing unit (CPU), graphics card (GPU), and power cable all fall under hardware.

Hardware can also be viewed as a direct opposite to everything considered software. Software is, by definition, intangible; it doesn't have a physical component and exists only as digital data. The term refers to your operating system, internet browser, and even that "New hardware found" popup users get when a new device is plugged into their computers.

Naturally, computer hardware and software go hand in hand. None could perform its function without the other.

It's obvious that not all hardware components are the same. No one would say that a computer mouse and a graphics card are in any way similar. This is because hardware comes in several types based on its location and purpose.

Classification by location is relatively straightforward. Based on whether they're housed in or outside the computer case, hardware components can be internal or external.

But before we get deeper into explaining types of hardware, there's an interesting question of the computer case. It is undoubtedly hardware, yet doesn't fall into either of the mentioned types.

Computer cases (or towers) are a hardware category of their own. Since other parts are defined by their location relative to the case, the case itself can be neither internal or external. In some cases, a computer case with PC components inside is collectively called "PC hardware";

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