

Common Computer Terms

1. **Bit** - A binary unit of data storage that can only be a value of 0 or 1.
2. **BIOS** - BIOS stands for Basic Input/Output System and it is a low level program used by your system to interface to computer devices such as your video card, keyboard, mouse, hard drive, and other devices.
3. **Blu-ray disc**- same size as CDs but able to hold 25 GB, 50GB or 100GB. Used for movie releases
4. **Blu-ray player** attached to your TV can play movies on Blu-ray discs as well as DVDs.
5. **Boot** - A term used to describe what happens to a computer when it is turned on, the operating system begins to run, and then the user is able to use the computer successfully.
6. **Byte** - 8 bits of data which has a possible value from 0 to 255.
7. **CD-ROM disk** - A disk with about 640Mb of storage capacity.
8. **CD-ROM drive** - The hardware component that is used to 'read' (ie - see what is on it) a CD-ROM or to 'write' (ie - burn something on to it) to it.
9. **CLI**- Command line Interfaces- Used today by computer geeks and hackers where they type in instructions to tell the computer what to do.
10. **Crash** - A common term used to describe what happens to a computer when software errors force it to quit operating and become unresponsive to a computer user.
11. **Driver** - A specially written program which helps your computer understand the operation of the device it connects to, such as a printer, video card, sound card or CD ROM drive. It provides an interface for the computer's operating system to use the device.
12. **DVD** – digital video or versatile disc, same size as CDs but able to hold (4.7GB to 9.4 GB) It's used for movies and tv program storage. With a DVD player you can watch them on your TV.
13. **DVD-R** digital video or versatile disc is used to store large amounts of data like movies, photos, large amount of document files using your DVD drive on your computer
14. **File** - A collection of data stored on a permanent storage media such as a computer hard drive or a flash drive, eg, a picture, a pdf document, a WORD document, a newsletter.
15. **Firmware** - Software written into permanent storage into the computer.
16. **Folder**- a holder for a group of related files, helps to organize your documents and pictures
17. **Hardware** - Describes the physical parts of your computer which you can physically touch or see such as your monitor, case, disk drives, microprocessor etc
18. **Internet** - A network of networks which incorporate a many organizations, physical lines, the ability to route data, and many services including email and web browsing.
19. **ISP** - Internet Service Provider is an organization that provides the services to connect to the internet for their customers. They also usually provide additional

services such as e-mail services and the capability to host web sites. You pay this company to access the Internet through them. Eg. AT&T DSL,

20. **Network** - A general term describing to the cables and electronic components that carry data between computers. It is also generally used to refer to the server computers that provide services such as printing, file sharing, e-mail, and other services.
21. **Operating System** - The core software component of a computer that provides the ability to interface to peripheral and external devices and support the application programs. Examples are Windows 10, Apple X.
22. **Protocols** - A standard method used for communications or other internet and network functions.
23. **Security flaw** - A software bug allowing an attacker a method to gain unauthorized access to a system.
24. **Software** - Describes the programs that run on your system, eg WORD, games, antivirus programs, Photoshop
25. **SPAM** - A term used to describe junk and unsolicited e-mail.
26. **Storage Media** - A term used to describe any magnetic device that computer data can be permanently stored on such as a hard drive or flash drive.
27. **URL** - Uniform Resource Locator is the term for an Internet address like - <http://westorangewomen.com>
28. **Virus** - A program that runs on a system against the owner's or user's wishes and knowledge and can spread by infecting files or sending itself through e-mail
29. **Worm** - A term used to describe an unwanted program that uses system or application vulnerabilities to infect a computer without the user doing anything but connecting to an infected network.
30. **CD-R** - a Compact Disc that's recordable for music storage
31. **CD-RW** - a CD that's recordable and rewriteable (re-recordable)
32. **Download** - bring a file from another computer to your computer
33. **SSL** - Secure Socket Layer - a way of protecting data online (Like when you show on line)
34. **ZIP** - The most common form of file compression create operating d by Phil Katz in 1986
35. **Gigabyte** - 1 billion bytes, 1024 megabytes
36. **Bandwidth** - The transmission capacity of an electronic pathway such as a communications line, computer bus or computer channel. Higher bandwidth allows you to download off the Internet faster.
37. **LAN** - Local Area Network
38. **GUI** - Graphical User Interface. It's a way to communicate what you want to a computer application (or computer system) using graphical symbols, rather than typing the instructions in. GUIs let you work with picture-like items (icons, windows, dropdown menus, scrollbars etc) to tell the computer what you want from it. You use a mouse, touch pad, keyboard, joystick etc. The alternative is Command-line interface which used a keyboard only.
39. **Upload** - sending a file from your computer to another computer