

What is computer?

The word computer derived from the Latin word “compute” which means to calculate. A computer is an electronic device which takes the input from the input devices, stores in the memory and processes them according to given instruction and displays the result through the help of output device. It can perform all mathematical and logical calculations at very high speed.

What is Data?

Data is a raw and unorganized fact that required to be processed to make it meaningful. Data contains numbers, characters, symbols, image, etc. in a raw form.

What is Information?

Information is a set of data which is processed in a meaningful way according to the given requirement.

Importance of Computer in Hotel Industry

Computers are important in hotels because they can help you become more organised. With a PC, you can have all your data at one place. You will not have to shuffle papers and logbooks anymore. Generally it is used by lodging managers and their assistants to keep track of guest bills, reservations, room assignments, Check Ins, Guest Accounting, Inventory and different types of record. To maintain such type of activity each automated hotel has Software called the Property Management System (PMS) like, IDS, CLS, HMS, Fidelio etc. These PMS are used by the each department from beginning till end of a guest cycle. The PMS is also used to prepare different reports, maintaining guest's accounting, keeping records, Front Office, Back Office, point of sale, door locking, Housekeeping , Pay-TV, energy management, payment card authorization and channel management systems. Each hotel personnel have their own log in ID to open their respective PMS window.

Difference between Computer & Man

Computer	Man
1. Computer can store large amount of Information.	1. Man does not remember all the information.
2. Computer works at a very high speed.	2. Man do the same work at slow speed.
3. Computer never gets tired.	3. Man gets tired and often needs rest.
4. Computer never makes mistake.	4. Man can make mistake.
5. Computer can not take its own decision.	5. Man can take its own decision.
6. Computer needs electricity to do work.	6. Man does not need electricity to do work.
7. Computer can not work without instructions.	7. Man can work on its own.
8. Computer does not have feeling.	8. Man has feelings.

Characteristics/Features of Computer

- ❖ **Speed:** Computer can work very fast. It takes only few seconds for calculations that we take hours to complete. It can perform millions (1,000,000) of instructions and even more per second. Therefore, we determine the speed of computer in terms of microsecond (10^{-6} part of a second) or nano-second (10^{-9} part of a second).
- ❖ **Accuracy:** In addition to speed, the computer should have accuracy or correctness in computing. The accuracy of computer is very high and every calculation is performed with the same accuracy. The accuracy level is determined on the basis of design of computer. The errors in computer are due to human and inaccurate data. The accuracy for a particular computer depends upon its design. Generally, programmers are responsible for these errors.
- ❖ **Storage:** Computers can store a lot of information in the form of files, which can be recalled at any time. This type of storage is known as electronic storage system.

- ❖ **Diligence:** Computers do not suffer from carelessness and tiredness. Moreover, their efficiency doesn't decrease with age.
- ❖ **Versatility:** It means the computer can perform different work at a time (i.e. Multitasking). You may use your computer to prepare payroll slips. Next moment you may use it for inventory management or to prepare electric bills.
- ❖ **Power of Remembering:** Computer has the power of storing any amount of information or data. Any information can be stored and recalled as long as you require it, for any number of years.

What are the limitations of computer?

1. **Programmed by human**: Computer can work efficiently, fast and accurately but it is programmed by human beings. Without a program, computer is nothing. A program is a set of instructions. Computer only follows these instructions. If the instructions are not accurate the output of computer will also not accurate.
2. **Thinking**: The computer can't think itself. The concept of artificial intelligence shows that the computer can think. But still this concept is dependent on set of instructions provided by the human beings.
3. **Self Care**: A Computer can't care itself like a human. A computer is dependent still to human beings for this purpose.
4. **Feelings**: One of the main limits in the computer is of feeling. A computer can not feel like a human being.
5. **No IQ**: Computers do not have own intelligence and their Intelligence Quotient (IQ) is zero. So a computer cannot take its own decision.