

PC Pitstop

Computing Acronyms

MB = Motherboard, the main part of a computer which all other parts plug into, often the most expensive part of a computer to replace.

HDD = Hard Drive Disk or Hard Drive, used to store data on a computer, size measured in gigabytes or terabytes.

MSE = Microsoft Security Essentials (Anti-Virus)

RAM = Random Access Memory (Necessary for computer to function, more RAM = More speed, comes in 512MB, 1GB, 2GB etc.)

DDR1 DDR2 DDR3 = Various types of RAM (memory)

MB = Megabyte, unit of measurement for hard drive or RAM size

GB = Gigabyte, unit of measurement for hard drive or RAM size, 1GB = 1000MB

TB = Terabyte, unit of measurement for Hard Drive size, 1TB = 1000GB

CPU = Central Processing Unit or Processor, comes in two brands either Intel or AMD. Known as the "brain" of the computer, essential for computer to run, faster processor = faster computer.

Dual Core/Quad Core = Different types of processor, Quad core mainly used by gamers and hardcore users.

i3, i5, i7 = Newer types of Intel Processors, i5 is Dual Core, i7 is Quad Core

Video Card/Graphics Card = Used to send the signal from the computer to the monitor, can be either part of the motherboard or a separate card, the more powerful the video card the more graphics intensive games you can play.

VGA or D-SUB = The most basic plug for connecting a computer to a monitor, the two plugs are often blue coloured.

DVI = A higher quality computer to monitor connection, wider than VGA plugs and often white in colour.

HDMI = High Definition Multimedia Interface, the newest kind of computer to monitor cable, High definition quality, also carries audio, is usually used to plug a computer into Plasma or LCD screens and is used in Game Consoles and Blu Ray players.

DVD Reader/CD Burner = Will play DVDs and burn CDs

DVD Writer = Will burn and play DVDs and CDs

CD Writer = Will burn and play CDs not DVDs

Blu Ray Drive = Will burn and play CDs and DVDs will only play Blu Ray Discs

Blu Ray Writer = Will burn and play CDs, DVDs and Blu Ray Discs

PCI = Connection on motherboard for connection Sound Cards, USB cards, dial up modems etc.

PCI Express = Connection on motherboard for Video Cards

PCIMIA or ExpressCard Slot = Slot on the side of laptops for connecting an expansion card, usually wireless or extra USB ports.

AGP = Accelerated Graphics Port, connection on older motherboards for graphics cards

SATA = Newer connection on motherboards for connecting hard drives and DVD or Blu Ray Drives

IDE or PATA = Older connection on motherboards for connecting hard drives or disc drives, wide flat ribbon cable.

USB = Universal Serial Bus, used to connect devices such as iPods, Cameras, Printers, Keyboards etc. to computers, is either USB 1.0 (Older computers), USB 2.0 (modern computers) or USB 3.0 (newest computers)

Serial/Parallel = Older connection for printers, modems etc.

Ethernet = Cable used to connect computer to a network or modem for broadband, looks like an oversized phone cable

ADSL = Home broadband through the phone line, currently the fastest and cheapest way to access the internet

ADSL2+ = A faster version of ADSL

Wireless = Used to connect computers to a modem for broadband

Wireless Broadband = Using a USB Stick to connect to a mobile network (Telstra, Optus, Dodo etc.) to access the internet, is slower and more expensive than ADSL but good for travelers. Please note that when selling wireless broadband you explain to the customer there is no guarantee that it will work where they want it to due to it needing mobile reception to work and there are NO refunds. It is essentially the same as buying a mobile phone.

Note: *Wireless is built into most modern laptops, wireless broadband MUST be purchased separately they are NOT the same thing.*