

'100' Things Handbook Computer Science



Computer System	Combination of hardware and software;							
Binary		Discrete Numbering System. Signifies voltage/current/electricity on or off. Allows for digital processing. Represented by 1 (on) 0 (off)						
	27	2 ⁶	2 ⁵	2 ⁴	2 ³	2 ²	2 ¹	2°
	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
	О	0	0	0	1	1	0	О
Data	Raw fact	s and fig	ures. No	context or	r proces	sing.		
Information	Data that	has bee	n process	sed.				
Hexadecimal	way than	Numbers are displayed in a more compact way than in binary. Example: 2D = 45 Hexadecimal 5F O101 1111 Binary 01011111 Decimal 95						
Algorithm	A series	of instruc	tions that	solves a	problem			r of steps.
Boolean								
Integer		A variable data type which can be set to either true or false.						
Character	A variabl	A variable data type which is a whole number. A variable data type which is either a letter, number or symbol. The number has no value.						
String		A variable data type. A series of characters. Cannot perform a calculation on a number stored as a string. It must be converted to an integer or real value.						
Date		Some languages have a date data type or the day, month and year could each be stored as separate integer or string values						
Character Set		All the characters which are can be represented by the computer system. There are many different character set standards such as ASCII, Unicode.						
Array / List	individua	A group of variables of the same data type stored under one identifier. Each individual variable is given an index number by which it is referred to within the array.						
ASCII	Characte	ASCII is a 7-bit character set. 128 characters represent English alphabet. Characters of many other alphabets (accept languages) cannot be represented.						
UNICODE		Unicode has a much larger character set (16 bits) and can represent many more characters/characters from all alphabets.						
CPU	Performs processing on a computer. Fetches instructions from memory. Fetches data from memory. Decodes instructions. Executes instructions. Performance can be improved through: number of cores clock speed/number of cycles word size architecture of the CPU type of cache memory							
CPU processing of instructions	The instructions are held in memory The processor fetches an instruction from memory The processor decodes the instruction The processor executes the instruction The result may be stored back into memory The process is repeated continuously							

Clock Speed	Instructions are fetched from memory. Decoded and Executed by the processor. The speed at which this cycle happens is the clock speed of the CPU. Higher clock speed means more instructions can be executed in same period of time.
Dual Core CPU	Two cores may be able to process two instructions in parallel.
Cache Memory	Superfast memory. Frequently used instructions/data are pre-loaded into cache which is faster to access than RAM. Reduces the time to fetch data/instructions
Secondary Storage	A storage device other than RAM. Eg hard disk, solid state USB drive.
Magnetic Storage	Hard disk drive. Stores binary on a magnetised disc as series of magnetised/demagnetised areas which represent 0 or a 1. Unsuitable for mobile devices due to moving parts, slower data transfer times, less robust, larger in size and uses more power than solid state.
Solid State Storage	Storage device with no moving parts. Used in Smart Phones/Tablet. Faster access than other storage mediums. Less power consumption. Robust unlike magnetic drives.
Optical Storage	CD-R/DVD-R. Device read by a laser. Once data written cannot be altered on the device. Laser into the correct position over the CD. CD is spun to ensure all data can be read. The laser is shone on to the disk. The laser is reflected off disc. Bumps and Pits on disk change reflectivity of laser. This represents 1s and 0s of data.
RAM	Internal memory. A large amount of RAM enables more instructions/programs to be loaded from secondary storage into RAM so they can be executed by the processor. Volatile.
ROM	Internal memory. Stores bootstrapping instructions that allows device to boot up and search or OS. Non-volatile.
Virtual Memory	When a computer system has insufficient memory the backing store (HDD) is used as temporary RAM. When main memory is limited it allows computer to run more software/multi task.
Function	Block of code. Always returns a value. Procedures do not return a value. Allows reusability through parameters. Reduced lines of code required. They can be tested in isolation and only require testing once. Easily updated. Easier to read. Reduced chances of errors.
Parameter	Value sent to a Function/Procedure
External software sources/Software libraries	Blocks of pre-written/pre-tested code that can be used in programs. Saves programming time. Allows more professional looking input screens. Allows access to advanced validation code. May reduce the security of the site. External code may not be well documented. Limited by what the external source of code offers.
Bitmap Image	Image is represented as a sequence of pixels. Each pixel represents a colour. 1 bit per pixel – B&W image. 1 byte per pixel 256 different colours available. Quality of bitmap image depends on number of pixels used to make up image.
Compression: Lossy v Lossless	Compression can be lossy or lossless . Lossless compression means that as the file size is compressed, the picture quality remains the same - it does not get worse. Also, the file can be decompressed to its original quality. Lossy compression permanently removes data.
Digitised Sound Sampling	Microphone picks up sound waves converted from an analogue signal into a digital signal. Multiple values at specific points on sound wave (sample rate) are converted to a binary number and stored as a file

Network	Two or more computers that have been connected together. Can communicate to one another.
Advantages of	Enables users to work from multiple physical locations.
connecting to a	Hardware resources to be shared between computers eg printer
Network	Creates more resilient systems (than when you are reliant on just one computer)
	Access to web services and monitoring of web traffic
	Easier monitoring of all users.
	Centralised back-up is possible.
Disadvantages of	Additional hardware is required.
connecting to a	Introduces potential security risks eg viruses, hacking
Network	Additional support costs
	Certain hardware failures (e.g. main server or switch/router) could impact other devices
Network Topology	Method of connecting a group of devices together in a particular structure.
Peer to Peer Network	In a P2P network, the "peers" are computer systems which are connected to each other via the Internet. Files can be shared directly between systems on the network without the need of a central server. In other words, each computer on a P2P network becomes a file server as well as a client.
Client Server	A computer system in which a central server provides data to a number of networked workstations.
Ring	One faulty device/connection means the network can fail.
	Connections are shared between all devices so not secure.
	Data has potentially to travel through many devices before reaching its
	destination
Star	
	It allows each client to use full transmission over the network
	No data collisions
	Easy to connect new devices The failure of one client will not offeet the others
	The failure of one client will not affect the others
	Packets are only sent to intended device:
Protocol	Packets are only sent to intended device; An agreed method of communication. Set of rules that govern communication.

TC/IP	Network communications in which	Layer Names	Protocols
	the TCP transport is used to deliver data across IP networks.	Application	HTTP,FTP,POP3,
		Transport	SMTP,SNMP TCP,UDP
		Networking	IP,ICMP
		Datalink	Ethernet, ARP
Syntax Error	Errors that occur during the execution of a prog the program. Breaks rules of language. Picked to locate and fix. IDE will often identify. Prevent fixed.	up early in dev	elopment. Easy
Run Time Error	Written as syntactically correct code.		
	May only appear late (or never) in testing.		
	IDE tools will help to identify syntax errors but a run-time errors.	are less useful	in identifying
	Will cause a running program to crash.		
	Run-time errors may not occur every time the p	program is run	
Logic Error	Code will execute but will not perform desired of		
	Can be difficult to detect because code will exe		
	Can often be missed due to ineffective testing. infrequently. Action taken after testing was income.	•	
	may introduce new logic errors. Code can be o		ware apaated
Sort Algorithms	Bubble Sort, Insertion Sort, Merge Sort and Se	lection Sort	
Search Algorithms	Linear Search, Binary Search		
Methods to spot and	Built in functions in IDE will include.		
reduce errors in code	Watch/Variable table		
	Breakpoint; Step through		
	Syntax colouring		
	Automatic Code completion		
Waterfall Method	Methodology of software development.		
	Analysis, Design, Implementation, Testing, Eva	aluation	
	Each phase clearly separated, inflexible, difficu	It to go back a	step if needed.
Spiral Method	Methodology of software development.		
	More client consultation, ability to return and fix	•	
	Involves prototyping during design and implem	entation phase	•
Agile Method	Methodology of software development.		
	Regular testing, faster development, difficult to this method	develop large	software using
Prototyping	Advantages		
	Enable the system to be reviewed by the user of		
	May provide a final system that is better suited		eeds.
	Will detect incorrect features earlier than other	moaels.	
	Enable the developers to goin an early insink	nto how the a	otom oculd be
	Enable the developers to gain an early insight indeveloped	nto how the sy	stem could be
	Enable the developers to gain an early insight i developed. Disadvantages	nto how the sy	stem could be

	Prototypes can be converted to final code of lower quality than a properly analysed solution.	
Unit Testing	Performed by the programmer as they are developing the program. They test the correctness of small blocks of code in isolation.	
Integration Testing	Performed when all of the different parts of code, such as functions or modules, are complete. This tests whether the units of code work together correctly.	
System Testing	Takes place after the code has been individually tested and is done without having to have any knowledge of the code itself (black box testing). This tests that the entire system functions correctly.	
Test Data	Data that is used to test a new system. Is either Normal, Extreme or Erroneous.	
Normal Test Data	Test data that falls within the bounds of the validation rules	
Extreme Test Data	Test data that is at the upper or lower limit of the validation rules – eg. A Number between 1-10 would be either 1 or 10.	
Erroneous Test Data	Test data that will force an error on a validation rule. It is purposely incorrect.	
Database	An organised collection of data items	
Relational Database	A database with 2 or more tables that are linked via primary and foreign keys,	
Pseudocode		
.csv file	CSV is a simple file format used to store tabular data, such as a spreadsheet or database.	
Advantages Social Networks	Data could be stored outside of country so (possibly) free from censorship. Allows other media to be shared along with text such as videos and photos to keep people more informed of important global events. Allows communication to many recipients simultaneously thus speeding up communication. Potential to allow anyone interested to see information and so potentially increasing the speed of the spread of information.	
Social Engineering	Systems Security: psychological manipulation of people into performing actions or divulging confidential information.	
Hardware	All the physical parts in a computer system e.g.	
Reliability	How reliable systems are –Unreliable systems may have legal impact, aircraft accidents etc., loss of data, loss of use of systems impacting on business	
Disaster Recovery Planning	What to do if there is a disaster (fire, flood, natural disaster etc.). Making sure you detect, correct and prevent problems by backups, spare hardware, failover, backup power	
Failover Software	Keeps an eye on the health of systems. If it detects a problem it may switch over to another working system (mirror system) and keeps the system running	
Down time	When a computer system isn't running, the system is down. It is important to reduce the amount the system is down especially when we rely on them so much	
Redundancy	Keeping a spare piece(s) of hardware in case one breaks. Making sure there is no system down time (or very little)	

Virtual memory	An area on the hard disk used as memory. Used when RAM is too small to deal with the amount of instructions. Effects the performance	
RAM	Volatile memory Holds the most recent instructions that have been processed	
Clock Speed	Speed of the processor. E.g. 4GHZ - this means the CPU can process 4 billion instructions per cycle/second	
ROM	Non volatile. Holds the boot up program used when the computer first starts (boot strap)	
Cores	Dual core – This means two Processing units in the CPU	
Character sets	A standard that converts all characters on a normal keyboard into binary codes for the computer to understand e.g. ASCII and UNICODE	
Metadata	Information about the image that allows a computer to recreate the image from binary e.g. the height, width, colour depth	
Resolution	Describes the quality of an image. Measure in DPI (dots per inch)/pixels The higher the resolution the bigger the file size (and the more space you need to save it)	
UNICODE	An industry-standard character set that can represent thousands of different characters	
Software	Programs, apps Software is the programs that run on a computer.	
Revision	An ancient art that allows you to rediscover lost knowledge.	
Logic Gate - AND	Both inputs need to be on (1) for the output to be on (1)	
1 AND 0		
Logic Gate - OR	One or the other inputs need to be on (1) for the output to be on (1)	
$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} OR \\ 1 \end{array}$		
Logic Gate - NOT	The output is opposite to the input	
O 1		
Truth Table	A table that contains all of the inputs and output combinations for a logic	
Input	Gate	

