

Lecture 2
Jargon
Hardware, Continued

AGP	Accelerated Graphics Port. Slot designed specifically for graphics cards.
block	A group of clusters.
CD-R disc/drive	Storage disc that can hold 650-700 MB of data. CD-Rs can only be written to once
CD-ROM disc/drive	Storage disc that can store up to 700 MB of data. Can only read from disc not write.
CD-RW disc/drive	Storage disc that can hold up to 650 MB. Unlike CD-ROMs and CD-Rs, CD-RWs can be written and rewritten over and over again, similar to a floppy or zip disk.
cluster	Smallest storage unit on a disk.
color depth	Number of colors that can be displayed per pixel on a monitor.
defragment	To rearrange bits on disk so that each file's bits are contiguous.
display	A computer monitor.
dot pitch	Space (measured in millimeters) between each dot on a computer screen.
driver	Software that enables an operating system to communicate with a device.
DVD-R/+R disc	Digital Versatile Disc-Recordable. Once-writeable, optical storage disc capable of storing up to 4.7 GB.
DVD-RAM disc	Digital Versatile Disc-Random Access Memory. Rewriteable, optical storage disc capable of storing up to 9.4 GB (4.7 GB per side).
DVD-ROM disc	Digital Versatile Disc-Read Only Memory. Non-writeable, optical storage disc capable of storing between 4.7 GB and 17 GB.
DVD-RW/-RW disc	Digital Versatile Disc-Rewriteable. Rewriteable, optical storage disc capable of storing up to 9.4 GB (4.7 GB per side).
expansion bus	Connects processor to expansion slots.

expansion card	Allows user to put in additional capabilities for a computer (<i>e.g.</i> , a modem or Ethernet card).
FAT	File Allocation Table. Table on a HDD mapping filenames to specific locations on disk.
FDD	Floppy Disk Drive. 3.5" disk encased in hard plastic, used for backing up data. Has a capacity of 1.44 MB.
FireWire	Formally known as IEEE 1394, a type of bus that allows for transfer rates up to 800 Mbps along a cable.
fragmented	A state in which a file's bits are not contiguous on disk.
HDD	Hard Disk Drive. Internal disk that stores all information needed to run your computer. This includes the Operating System, applications, personal files, etc. Typical amount of space on a hard drive today is about 40 GB (gigabytes).
I/O device	A device that allows data to be either inserted or outputted from the computer.
IDE	Integrated Drive Electronics. Type of secondary storage interface found in PC's.
ISA	Industry Standard Architecture bus. Older technology that allows expansion of computer's functionality. Black in color.
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display. Found in laptops and most flat panel desktop monitors in new PCs.
monitor	Device that displays a computer's visual output.
PCI	Peripheral Component Interconnect bus. Newer and faster than ISA slots, allows expansion of computer's functionality. White in color.
platter	Fixed, rapidly rotating disk inside a hard drive.
printer	Output device that displays a computer's output on paper.
read/write head	Magnetic recording and playback device that goes back and forth over the surface of a HDD's platters.
refresh rate	The number of times per second that each pixel on a monitor is updated.

resolution	Measurement, in terms of dots per inch (dpi), of the clarity of a picture displayed by a monitor or a printer.
RJ-11	Type of connector found on a phone cord.
RJ-45	Type of connector found on an twisted-pair Ethernet cable.
sector	Radial division of a HDD's platter.
SCSI	Small Computer System Interface. Bus standard used in connecting hard disks, floppy drives, and CD-ROM drives.
shutter	Sliding, metallic cover on a floppy disk, protecting its cookie.
spindle	Inner, cylindrical core of a HDD's platter responsible for its spin.
track	A concentric circular band on computer disks where data is stored.
writeable	Signifies that data can be changed on a medium.
write-protected	Signifies that data cannot be changed on a medium.