

Basic Makeup of a Computer System

1. CPU / Central Processing Unit-electronic

Controls the computer and how it works. It consists of two basic parts: the **ALU** and the **Control Unit**.

2. ROM - Read Only Memory is found in the CPU.

3. ALU / Arithmetic and Logic Unit

addition (+), subtraction (-), multiplication (*), division (/), comparisons (<, <=, >, >=, =, <>)

4. Control Unit - Controls the instruction cycle of the program

5. Main Memory/Core Memory (RAM Random Access Memory)

Random Access Memory is fast, "expensive" and provides more power. Main Memory is **discrete**.

(Each space in main memory has its own address...like post office boxes. Addresses are unique, unsigned numbers that are stored in binary form.) Main memory is **volatile** in that it is easily lost when the computer is turned off and the information has not been saved.

6. Auxiliary Memory / Savable, infinite memory, non-volatile, external storage.

e.g. floppy disks, hard drives, CD, DVD, flash drives, etc.

7. Input/Output Devices

- **Input:** keyboard, mouse, scanners, light pens, optical mark readers, voice recognizers, digital cameras, microphones, etc. Input devices take data and converts into information.
- **Output:** monitors, printers, speakers, disk drives, flash drives, voice synthesizers

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