

KEYWORDS – Chapter 2

Computing hardware 4

Braille	A technique that allows blind people to read by feeling a pattern of raised dots with their fingers.
Braille keyboard	An input device with a small number of keys that can be used to enter characters as a combination of these keys.
Braille printer	An output device that produces Braille documents by impressing raised dots on a sheet of paper.
Digital camera	An input device that makes electronic images or video clips.
Eye tracker	An input device that allows a user to control a computer by moving their eye, for example by working out what the user is looking at on a display.
Ink-jet printer	A type of printer that works by projecting tiny droplets of ink onto a sheet of paper.
Input device	A device that is used to enter data into a computer. It takes data that a user presents and converts it into binary code.
Joystick	An input device, often used in games, that allows a user to move a pointer or a character by tilting a handle backwards, forwards, left or right.
Keyboard	An input device that consists of a set of keys that can be pressed by a user to enter characters into the computer system.
Laser printer	A type of printer that works by using a laser to cause powdered ink to form the desired pattern on a sheet of paper.
Microphone	An input device that converts sound into an electrical signal which can be processed by a computer.
Monitor	A screen used to display the output of a computer as a series of individual dots or pixels which can be updated as necessary.
Mouse	An input device that can be moved by a user to move a pointer on a screen. It has one or more buttons to allow the user to perform actions on the items on the screen.
Multitouch monitor	A touchscreen monitor capable of recognising several points of contact at the same time.

Optical Character Recognition (OCR)	A technique for converting images of printed text into electronic text by identifying the characters in the image according to their shape.
Output device	A device that presents the result of processing. It converts binary data into a form which can be read by a user, or into a result in the external world.
Plotter	A type of printer that uses a mechanical 'arm' and a pen to make very precise drawings.
Printer	An output device for producing hard copies of documents and images on paper.
Refreshable Braille display	An output device that has a row of mechanical dots which can be raised or lowered as required to make Braille characters.
Scanner	An input device that converts printed documents and images into a digital form.
Speaker	An output device that converts an electrical signal into sound.
Speech recognition	A technique that recognises a user's speech and converts it into text.
Speech synthesis	A technique that converts text into speech.
Touchpad	An input device that is used to move a pointer on the screen by making similar movements across a flat surface.
Touchscreen monitor	An input/output device that allows a user to interact with the image displayed by touching it.
Tracker ball	An input device that allows a user to move a pointer by moving a ball which is fixed in a socket.
Webcam	A digital camera that is used to capture images or, more usually, video, for transmitting immediately over the internet.