

Computer can be broadly classified by their speed and computing power.

Sr. No.	Type	Specifications
1	PC (Personal Computer)	Single user computer system. Moderately powerful microprocessor.
2	WorkStation	Single user computer system. Similar to Personal Computer but have more powerful microprocessor.
3	Mini Computer	Multi-user computer system. Capable of supporting hundreds of users simultaneously.
4	Main Frame	Multi-user computer system. Capable of supporting hundreds of users simultaneously. Software technology is different from minicomputer.
5	Supercomputer	An extremely fast computer which can perform hundreds of millions of instructions per second.

PC (Personal Computer)

A PC can be defined as a small, relatively inexpensive computer designed for an individual user. PCs are based on the microprocessor technology that enables manufacturers to put an entire CPU on one chip. Businesses use personal computers for word processing, accounting, desktop publishing, and for running spreadsheet and database management applications. At home, the most popular use for personal computers is for playing games and surfing the Internet.

Although personal computers are designed as single-user systems, these systems are normally linked together to form a network. In terms of power, now-a-days High-end models of the Macintosh and PC offer the same computing power and graphics capability as low-end workstations by Sun Microsystems, Hewlett-Packard, and DELL.



WorkStation

Workstation is a computer used for engineering applications (CAD/CAM), desktop publishing, software development, and other such types of applications which require a moderate amount of computing power and relatively high quality graphics capabilities.

Workstations generally come with a large, high-resolution graphics screen, large amount of RAM, inbuilt network support, and a graphical user interface. Most workstations also have a mass storage device such as a disk drive, but a special type of workstation, called a diskless workstation, comes without a disk drive.

Common operating systems for workstations are UNIX and Windows NT. Like PC, Workstations are also single-user computers. However, workstations are typically linked together to form a local-area network, although they can also be used as stand-alone systems.



Minicomputer

It is a midsize computer. A minicomputer is a multi-processing system capable of supporting from up to 250 users simultaneously.



Mainframe

Mainframe is a very large in size and is an expensive computer capable of supporting hundreds, or even thousands, of users simultaneously. Mainframe executes many programs concurrently. Mainframes support many simultaneous programs execution.



Supercomputer

Supercomputers are one of the fastest computers currently available. Supercomputers are very expensive and are employed for specialized applications that require immense amounts of mathematical calculations (number crunching). For example, weather forecasting, scientific simulations, (animated) graphics, fluid dynamic calculations, nuclear energy research, electronic design, and analysis of geological data (e.g. in petrochemical prospecting).

