

Q. What are the various elements of computer?

**Ans:** The various elements of computer are:

1. **Input:** The input devices of computer system includes keyboard, touch screens, electronic mouse, optical scanners, etc. They convert data into electronic machine readable form for direct entry or through telecommunication.
2. **Processing:** The heart of any computer is the Central Processing Unit(CPU). It is this central processor that makes comparisons, performs calculations, reads, interprets and controls the execution of the instructions. It consists of two sub-units:
  - Control Unit: The control unit supervises the operations of the entire computer. It does not process data, but selects the program statement from primary memory and interprets them and directs them to ALU for processing.
  - Arithmetic logic unit: Arithmetic logic unit performs mathematical calculations, compares numeric and non-numeric values and makes decisions. Data is transferred from the storage unit to the ALU, manipulated and returned to the storage unit.
3. **Storage:** The storage or primary memory section of the computer consists of devices used to store the information which will be used during the computations.

Common storage devices are bubble memory, RAM chips, etc.

4. **Secondary storage:** As the primary storage capacity of most computers is limited, it is both expensive and not always possible to hold a large volume of data and instructions in the primary storage. Hence, it becomes necessary to have secondary or auxiliary Storage. The various secondary storage devices are the magnetic tape drives and magnetic disk drives.

5. **Output:** Output devices are used to record results obtained by the computer and present them to the outside world. They take information in machine coded form from storage unit and convert it typically into a form that can be used:

- \* By human
- \* As machine input in another processing operation.