



Glossary of Common Computer terms

Hardware

Any computer parts that you can physically touch, such as: monitor (screen), printer, keyboard, tower, modem, and cables.

Software

The programs that run on the computer and allow us to operate the computer for things such as word processing and using the internet.

Examples of programs include: Microsoft Word, Internet Explorer, Excel.

Operating system

The master control program that runs the computer and all its actions.

Provides the link between the hardware and the software.

The most common operating system would be a version of Windows.

Desktop /icons

The desktop is the first screen you see when you turn on your computer.

The pictures here are called icons and each icon represents a program, folder, disc drive or a document.

Using your mouse allows you access to the programs or documents.

Pointer

The object that moves around the screen when you move the mouse.

Sometimes it looks like an arrow, other times it is an "I-bar" or a hand.

Task Bar

The bar that runs the length of the screen across the bottom.

It contains the start button and holds programs that have been temporarily minimized.

JP Aug 2019