

Input Devices of Computer with Examples

An input device is a computer device that allows computer users to enter data into a system and send instructions to the system to execute tasks accordingly. These devices are mainly hardware like keyboards, mice, joysticks, etc. It is the first or primary step in the processing of computer data that is done at the Central Processing Unit (CPU). The delivered signals are received by the CPU which processes them. Input devices of computer can be classified further as per the modality like visual or audio, discrete or continuous, and direct or indirect. Some of the main input devices are explained below with their descriptions.

Examples of Input Devices of Computer

Keyboard Mouse

Joysticks Wii Remote

Light Pen Game pad

Microphone Webcam

Scanner Digital camera

Barcode Reader Portable Media Player

Trackball Graphic Tablet

Magnetic Ink Card Reader (MICR) Optical Character Reader (OCR)

Optical Character Reader (OCR) Digitizer

Keyboard

The keyboard is the most fundamental input device of the computer. It is commonly used to insert data on the computer by using keys mounted on a keyboard. It is connected to the computer system through wifi or a USB cable. There are different varieties of keys for different purposes like numerals, letters, special characters, and functions. It is the main input device to command the computer system.

Mouse

A Mouse is a hand-supported device that enables computer users to move the cursor point on the computer screen. A mouse consists of two buttons namely left and right on its top portion and one

trackball at its bottom. It works on a flat surface to select and move the mouse around. The mouse as an input device was invented by Douglas C. Engelbart in 1063.

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Joy Stick

Joystick comprises a stick connected to the base at an angle so that it can be easily moved and controlled. It is mainly applied in controlling the movement of characters in video games. It is also employed in the cockpit of an airplane, wheelchairs, cranes, and trucks to regulate them properly. Its function is also to move the cursor on the screen but it is not like a mouse.

Light Pen

A light pen is a pointing input device that is in a pen-like structure. It allows computer users to select options on the screen and even draw on the screen. It is light-sensitive equipment as photocells are inbuilt in this device that allows the flow of instructions to the CPU. It is generally used with a cathode ray tube (CRT) of the computer.

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Microphone

A microphone is an inbuilt voice input device in which different sounds can be collected in their digital form. This input device converts sound instructions into electrical signals. It has to be linked with an amplifier for recording or reproducing the sound.

Scanner

A scanner is an input device that can scan different types of files of different formats like images or text and then convert them into digital signals. It can bring the document files to the computer screen by converting these files into a digital format. It operates like a photocopy machine to make the written information or data on a computer screen from paper.

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Barcode Reader

A barcode reader is a type of optical scanner device. It can read and understand the bar code data attached to goods, books, etc. It is like a reading device that throws a ray of light on a bar code and then the aspects and details of that particular item are displayed on the screen.