

Processing device

When a computer receives data from an input device (e.g., keyboard), it goes through an intermediate stage before it's sent to an output device (e.g., monitor). A processing device is any hardware inside a computer that interprets and manipulates incoming data during this stage. For example, in the diagram below, the CPU is the processing device.

Input device (microphone), processing device (CPU), and output device (hard disk)

Processing device examples

Processing devices in or used with a computer include the following:

Bluetooth adapter

CPU (central processing unit)s

GPU (graphics processing unit)

Motherboard

Network card

RAM (random-access memory)

Sound card

Video card