

Unit 1.3.1 Classifications of Computer

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Based on size and capacity, computers are classified as follows:

1. Super Computer
2. Mainframe Computer
3. Mini Computer.
4. Micro Computer.

1. Super Computer:-

- Supercomputers are the most powerful and physically the largest by size.
- These are systems designed to process huge amounts of data.
- The fastest supercomputers can perform over one trillion calculations in a second.
- Supercomputers have thousands of processors.

→ Because of their extraordinary speed, accuracy and processing power, supercomputers are well suited for solving highly complex problems & huge amounts of calculations.

Exam:- JAGUAR, ROADRUNNER etc.

2. Mainframe Computer.

- Mainframe computers are very large often filling an entire room and can process thousands of millions of instructions per second.
- In a mainframe environment, users connect to the mainframe through the many terminals wired to the mainframe.
- Mainframes are capable of supporting hundreds to thousands of users simultaneously.

- Some of the functions performed by a mainframe include: flight scheduling, reservations and ticketing for an airline etc.

Exam:- IBM Mainframes Z13, IBM System z9 Mainframes

3. Minicomputers:-

- ~~Minicomputers are also less expensive.~~
- Minicomputers are much smaller than mainframes.
- These computers are also less expensive.
- Sometimes referred to as Midrange Server or Midrange Computer.
- They are typically larger, more powerful and more expensive than desktop computers.
- Midrange computers are usually used by small and medium-sized businesses as their server.

- Users connect to the server through a network by using desktop computers.

Exam: Apple iPod, CDC 160A.

4. Microcomputers:-

- Microcomputers are the most frequently used type of computer.
- It is also known as Personal Computer (PC)
- A microcomputer is a small computer system designed to be used by one person at a time.

Exam:- Desktop computers, laptops.