

## The components of an information system

A component is a part of something. The parts that make up a computer system are **HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE.**

***Question:***

**Can you remember the parts of a computer without looking at your notes?**

There are many types of computers:

Microcomputers - Apples, PC's etc. Can be used as part of a network (like ISH) or by themselves known as 'stand alone'.

Mainframe computers - Large, powerful computers which are capable of supporting many terminals in use at one time. The terminals may be in use in a company in many cities or indeed around the world. These are used by big companies such as insurance companies, banks, gas & electricity and so on.

Mini-computers - The size of these is someway between microcomputers and mainframes in terms of size, cost and power.

## Why do people use computer systems?

1. Computers are very fast
2. Computers are very accurate
3. Computers can keep large amounts of information in a small place
4. Computers can work continuously for 24 hours a day
5. Computers can do some jobs that would be impossible without them

## Do they have disadvantages?

1. Computers can replace people
2. Computers hold personal information which may be misused
3. Computers can break down!
4. Staff need to be trained to use computers, this costs money and takes time

### Question:

List the functions you have used computers for over the years, think of leisure and at school.

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