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## Computer Terms

- Mhz = Megahertz means the computer CPU is running at a million cycles per second. So a 933 Mhz is running at 933 Millions Cycles per second.
- Ghz = Gigahertz means the CPU is running at a billion cycles per second. The higher the number, the faster the computer operates (sort of). A 2.8 Ghz is running at 2.8 billion cycles per second.
- Memory or Ram – the amount of memory a computer has to run a program when it is clicked on. 512 Megs of ram is the minimum you want these days.
- Computer – is the physical box that contains all the electronics
- Hard Drive – A storage component usually inside the computer or external for backups.
  - RPM – rotations per minute – faster means faster computer operation. Cheap computers usually use 4400 rpm or 5400 rpm hard drives. 7200 is much faster and 10,000 is even faster. 4400/5400 is not acceptable in a desktop computer per Computer Care
  - ATA interface – standard ATA aka PATA for parallel-attached technology attachment. These run at speeds of 100 to 133 Mps these days but used to run at 16, 33, and 66 Mps. Faster is better.
  - SATA – serial ATA – SATA 1 is 150 Mps SATA II is 300 Mps – latest technology is very fast. SATA II just being introduced to the public.
- CRT – the older picture tube variety monitor. Still the best value for the dollar. Heavy and take up a lot of table space.
- LCD – newer and much thinner than a CRT. Produce no magnetic radiation, uses less power, much easier on the eyes. But costs more for a good quality unit. A 3-year warranty should come standard with any brand name LCD screen.
- USB – Universal Serial Bus – quick way to connect all sorts of devices to your computer. USB 2.0 is 440 mps; USB 1.1 is 12 mps and is older.
- Firewire, IEEE 1394, iLink – Firewire 400 is another way to connect a high-speed device to a computer. Commonly used for video or high thru-put devices like high res scanners, etc.
- Ethernet – where a high speed Internet connects to your computer. Also where networking or sharing of devices and data connect to your computer. Looks like a large phone plug.
- HUB – either used as a USB or Ethernet. Basically a box that allows the connection of more than one usb or Ethernet device to your computer.

- Wireless, Wifi, WiFi, Wi-Fi – stands for Wireless Fidelity. Let's you disconnect the wires and run Ethernet thru the air. Very common today in laptops and everywhere.
- 802.11 b/g – the wireless protocol for b/g signals. B runs at 11 mps and G at 54 Mps. Variations exists from different manufacturers.
- MiMo – A new technology that extends the wireless range.
- Hot Spot – Where a wireless/WiFi signal is picked up.
- Blue Tooth - a technology created over 10 years ago by IBM. Just now becoming common in many devices such as laptop computers, cell phones, and more. Lets you communicate wirelessly between devices for a very short distance. Good for transferring digital pics from your cell phone to computer.
- Flash Drive aka Flash Memory, Thumb Drive – a portable storage device that currently ranges in size from 16 Megs to 4 gigs.
- MP3 – MPEG Audio Layer 3 – A very popular format for storing music and audio files. Other formats are: WMA (Microsoft), AAC (apple), AVI (apple), RPA (Real Networks) and many others.
- MP3 Player – a portable device used to play MP3 and WMA music and data. Ipods and such are customized mp3 players.
- Megapixel – Used with a digital camera. Larger is better picture without losing quality. A 3-megapixel camera will print a beautiful 8x10. A 5mp camera will print a more detailed 8x10. 3mp is the smallest you want to get. But the larger the mp the larger the file size too. So it depends upon what you plan on doing with your pictures after you take them.
- JPEG/JPG, Tiff, Raw – different formats for storing digital pictures. Jpg is the most common. Tiff is larger and higher quality.
- Digital Film – Memory Stick, SD, XD, MM, MMC, Compact Flash – all different types of memory cards that work in digital cameras. Each format is unique in size and maximum capacity. Each digital camera requires a different type of card.

I'm sure more terms will be coming out in the future.

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