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Coimbatore- 49

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

21UCI507 -Business Information Technology

Introduction to Computer & Characteristics of computers

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INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER

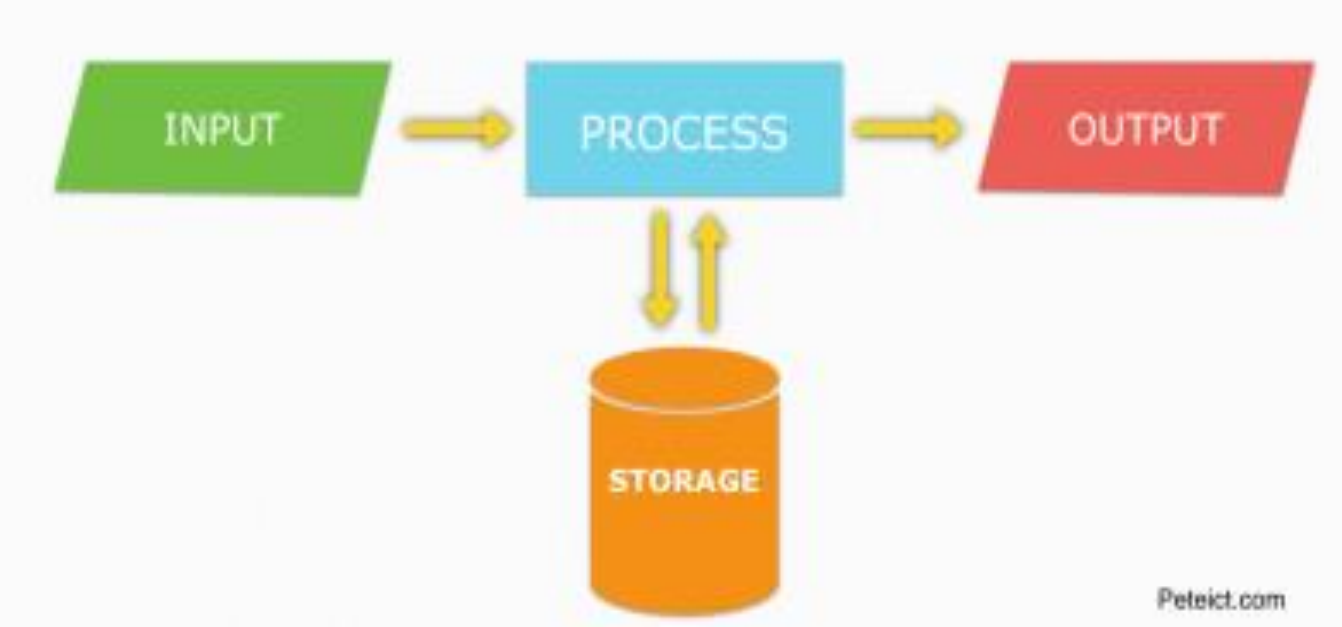
A computer is an electronic device, operating under the control of instructions (software) stored in its own memory unit, that can accept data (input), manipulate data (process), and produce information (output) from the processing. Generally, the term is used to describe a collection of devices that function together as a system.

Devices that comprise a computer system

What Does A Computer Do?

Computers can perform four general operations, which comprise the information processing cycle.

- Input
- Process
- Output
- Storage Data



Data and Information

- All computer processing requires data, which is a collection of raw facts, figures and symbols, such as numbers, words, images, video and sound, given to the computer during the input phase.
- Computers manipulate data to create information. Information is data that is organized, meaningful, and useful.
- During the output Phase, the information that has been created is put into some form, such as a printed report.
- The information can also be put in computer storage for future use.

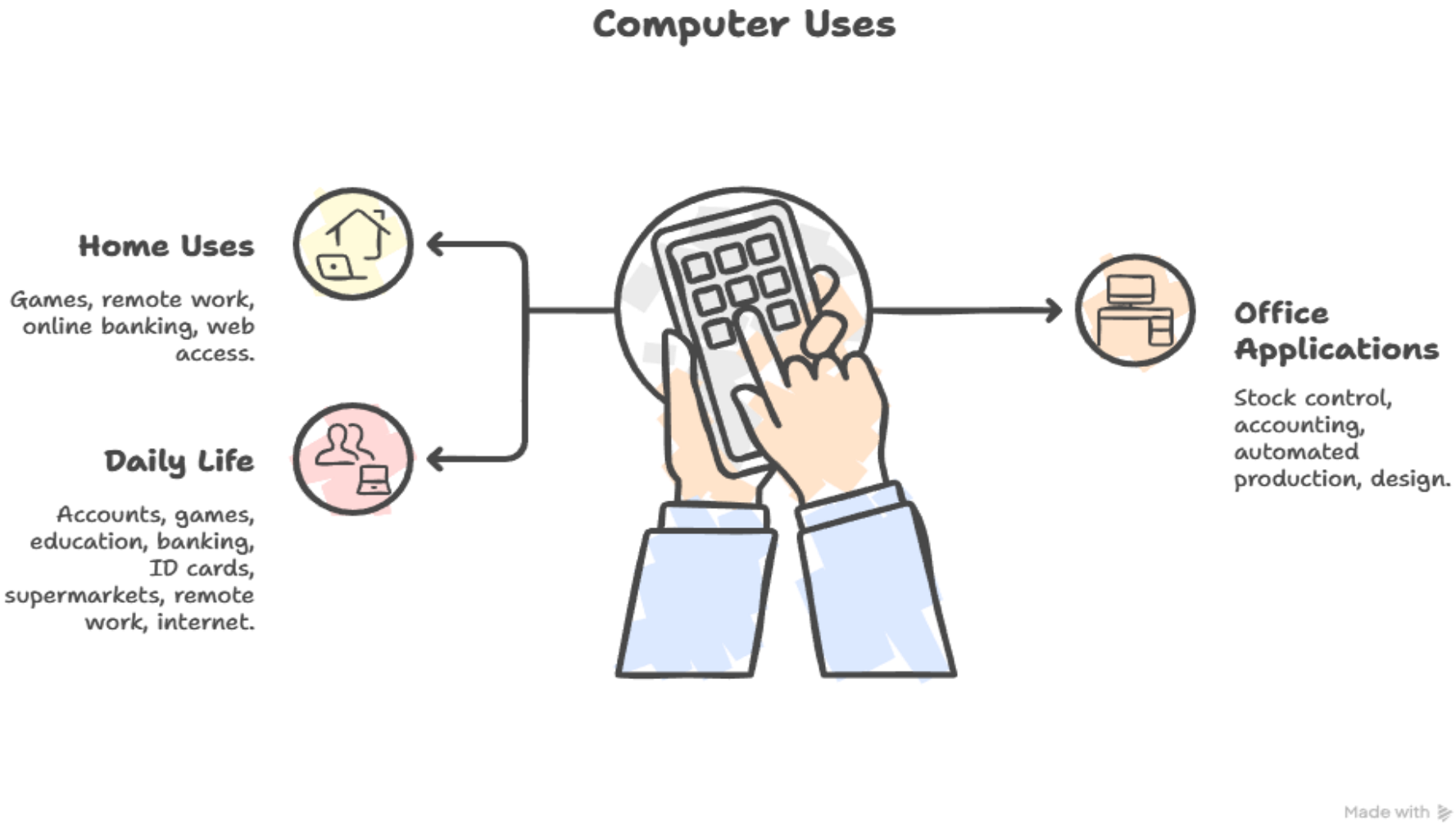
Why is a Computer so Powerful?

- The ability to perform the information processing cycle with amazing speed.
- Reliability (low failure rate).
- Accuracy.
- Ability to store huge amounts of data and information.
- Ability to communicate with other computers.

How Does a Computer Know what to do?

- It must be given a detailed list of instructions, called a compute program or software, that tells it exactly what to do.
- Before processing a specific job, the computer program corresponding to that job must be stored in memory.
- Once the program is stored in memory the compute can start the operation by executing the program instructions one after the other.

Uses of Computer



Characteristics of a Computer

Speed

The computer is able to process the data and gives the output in fractions of seconds, such that required information is given to the user on time enabling the user to take right decisions on right time. A powerful computer is capable of executing about 3 million calculations per second.

Characteristics of a Computer

Accuracy

The accuracy of computers is consistently high enough which avoids any errors. If it all there are errors, they are due to errors in instructions given by the programmer.

Reliable

The output generated by the computer is very reliable, but it is reliable only when the data, which is passing as input to the computer and the program.

Storage

The computer has a provision to store large volumes of data in the small storage devices, which have capacity to store huge amounts of data and help the retrieval of data an easy task.

Characteristics of a Computer

Versatile

Computers are very versatile machines. Computers are capable of performing almost any task, provided the task can be reduced to a series of logical steps.

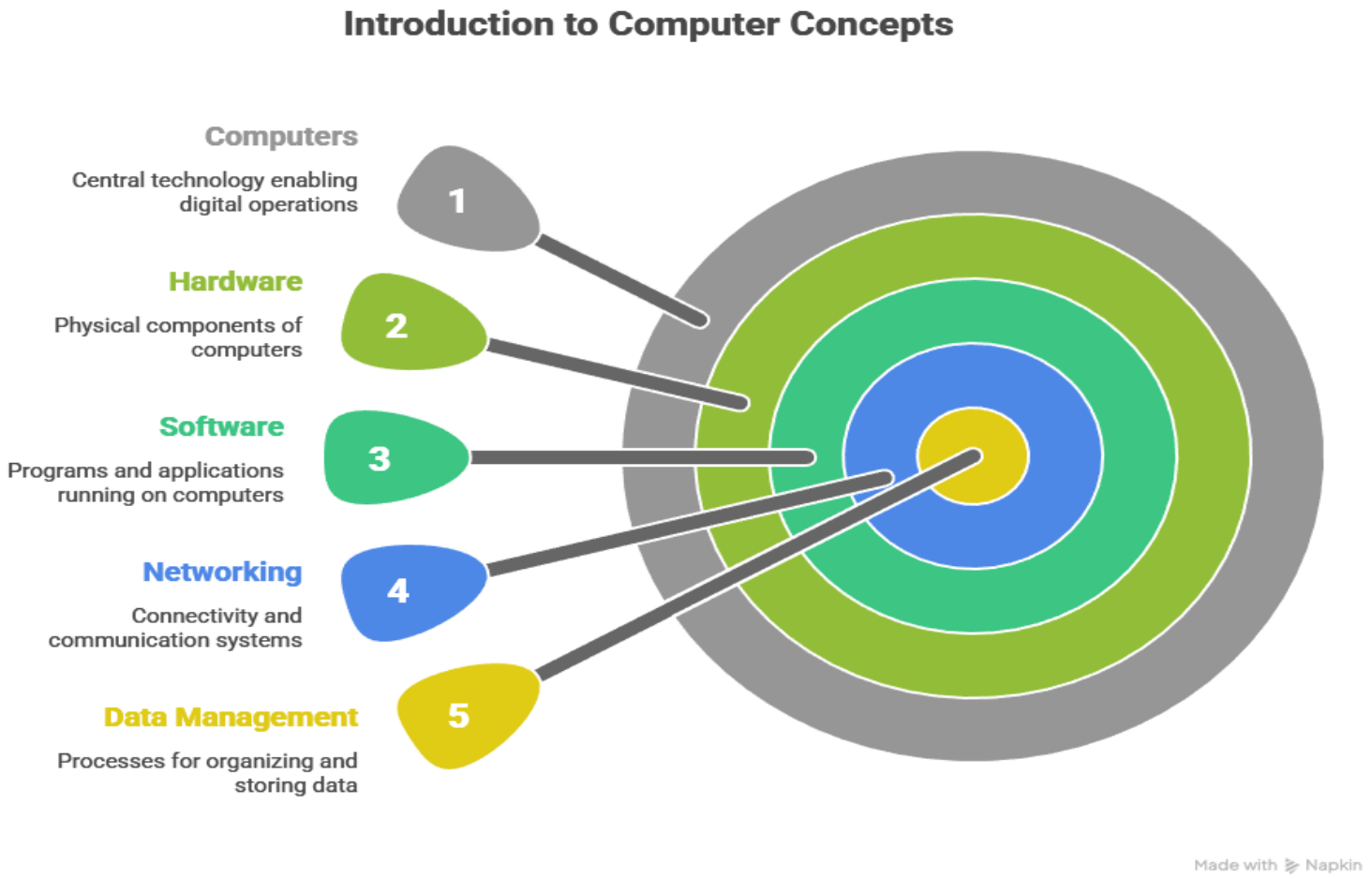
Automation

Once the instructions fed into computer it works automatically without any human intervention until the completion of execution of program or meets logical instructions to terminate the job.

Diligent

A computer is free from tiredness, lack of concentration, fatigue, etc. It can work for hours without creating any error. If millions of calculations are to be performed, a computer will perform every calculation with the same accuracy.

MIND MAP OF COMPUTER



ASSESSMENT -QUIZ

1. **Which of the following best defines a computer?**
   A. A machine that stores food
   B. An electronic device that processes data into meaningful information
   C. A device used only for gaming **Answer: B**
   D. A mechanical machine used for transportation

2. **Which characteristic of a computer refers to its ability to perform billions of operations per second?**
   A. Versatility
   B. Reliability
   C. Speed **Answer: C**
   D. Automation
3. **Computers can perform different types of tasks such as calculations, designing, data storage, etc. This refers to which characteristic?**
   A. Versatility
   B. Accuracy **Answer: A**
   C. Storage capacity
   D. Diligence

ASSESSMENT -QUIZ

4. The ability of a computer to store large amounts of data and retrieve it whenever required is known as:

A. Speed
B. Memory
C. Diligence
D. Accuracy

Answer: B

5. Computers do not get tired, bored, or lose concentration even after long hours of work. This refers to:

A. Diligence
B. Automation
C. Versatility
D. Speed

Answer: A


Thank you!