

[Lecture 3: Introduction to Computer] BBA First semester

Questions:

1. **Describe types of Computer?*****
2. **Describe the Generation of Computer system?***
3. **Write down some features of third, fourth and fifth generation computer.*****
4. **Describe History of Computer.***

- **Describe types of Computer?*****

There are some types of computer system. These are started below:

- **Personal computer or Desktop Computer:** A small, single-user computer based on a microprocessor.
- **Notebook computer:** An extremely lightweight personal computer. Notebook computers typically weigh less than 6 pounds and are small enough to fit easily in a briefcase. There are many types of notebook computer, these are:
 - i) Laptop computer
 - ii) Subnotebook computer
 - iii) Hand-held computer
 - iv) Palmtop
 - v) PDA
- **Workstation:** A powerful, single-user computer. A workstation is like a personal computer, but it has a more powerful microprocessor and, in general, a higher-quality monitor.
- **Minicomputer:** A multi-user computer capable of supporting up to hundreds of users simultaneously.
- **Mainframe:** A powerful multi-user computer capable of supporting many hundreds or thousands of users simultaneously.
- **Supercomputer:** An extremely fast computer that can perform hundreds of millions of instructions

Description of compared item	Mainframe Computer	Minicomputer	Microcomputer	Desktop
Example	IBM 370/168	PDP 11/45	Uprtron S-800	Eiko
Cost (Rupees)	0.5-5 crores	5-20 lakh	1-3 lakh	10,000
Word length(bits)	32-64	16-32	8-16	4-8
Languages	All	All	Fortran, Basic, Cobol, Pascal etc.	Basic
Software	All types	Wide variety	Limited	Limited

per second.

- **Describe the Generation of Computer system?***

Generation of computer system are given below:

First Generation (1945–1959)

- Use of vacuum tube in electronic circuits.
- Magnetic drum as primary internal storage medium.
- Limited main storage capacity and slow operating speed.
- Slow input/output : punched card and tape oriented.
- Low level programming languages are used.

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- Example: IBM 650, IBM 704, IBM 709, Mark II, Mark IV etc.

Second Generation (1960–1964)

- Use of transistors.
- Magnetic core as primary internal storage medium.
- Increased main- storage capacity.
- Faster input/ output : introduction of VDU, OCR and MICR readers.
- High level programming languages.
- Increased speed and reliability.
- Example: IBM 1401, Honeywell 400, CDC 1604, IBM 1602.

Third Generation(1965-70)

- Use of integrated circuits.
- Magnetic core and solid state main storage.
- More flexibility with input/output.
- Extensive use of high level programming languages.
- Applications: airline system, Market forecasting, credit-card billing .
- Examples: IBM system/360, NCR 395, CDC 6600

Fourth Generation (1971-?)

- Use of large scale and very large scale integrated circuits.
- Increased storage capacity and speed.
- Greater versatility of input/output devices: audio response terminals, graphic display terminals.
- Increased use of microcomputers.
- applications: mathematical modelling and simulation, electronic funds transfer, and computer aided instruction.
- Example: IBM 3033, HP 3000, Apple II, etc.

Fifth Generation :

Fifth generation of computer is yet to come. They will be extremely fast processing speeds. Software will be proliferate and get much bigger.

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