

Technology V10/S4: Computer Storage

Computers process and store a lot of information. Computers use storage systems to store this data for future use. Think of a computer's storage system as a physical storage unit. You can leave all of your things in one protected location and come back to them as you need. There are many different types of computer storage devices.

RAM makes it easy to multitask with different programs at one time without losing your work. The more RAM your computer has, the faster your computer will be able to process data. However, the RAM alone will not hold onto data for long periods of time. You will lose your work if the computer shuts off before you have a chance to properly save it. In order to avoid losing unsaved work, one can save their work on to the computer's storage system, an external hard drive, or The Cloud.

There are pros and cons to each form of storage. Cons of using external hard drives include losing or breaking the device. Good quality external hard drives are also quite costly. Most people today use programs that automatically save work onto The Cloud. The Cloud eliminates the need for costly hard drives and users can access their information anywhere in the world on any device as long as there is wifi. Examples of cloud servers are Dropbox and Gmail.

Vocabulary	Definition
Storage	Something that stores information in/or outside of the computer.
Data	Another term for information.
RAM	The primary storage location of a computer.
Volatile Memory	Storage that holds information as long as the device is being used.
The Cloud	A non-physical device that holds data outside of the computer.
External Hard Drive	A physical storage device that holds data outside of the computer.

Storage	Data	RAM	The Cloud	Ext. Hard Drive
				