APS105: Lecture 1

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Chapter 1

Introduction to Computers and C++ Programming





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Computer Systems

- A computer program is...
 - A set of instructions for a computer to follow
- Computer software is ...
 - The collection of programs used by a computer
 - Includes:
 - Editors
 - Translators
 - System Managers

Hardware

- Three main classes of computers
 - PCs (Personal Computer)
 - Relatively small used by one person at a time
 - Workstation
 - Larger and more powerful than a PC
 - Mainframe
 - Still larger
 - Requires support staff
 - Shared by multiple users



Networks

- A number of computers connected to share resources
 - Share printers and other devices
 - Share information





Computer Organization

Five main components

- Input devices
 - Allows communication to the computer
- Output devices
 - Allows communication to the user
- Processor (CPU)
- Main memory
 - Memory locations containing the running program
- Secondary memory
 - Permanent record of data often on a disk



Computer Memory

- Main Memory
 - Long list of memory locations
 - Each contains zeros and ones
 - Can change during program execution
 - Binary Digit or Bit
 - A digit that can only be zero or one
 - Byte
 - Each memory location has eight bits
 - Address
 - Number that identifies a memory location

Larger Data Items

- Some data is too large for a single byte
 - Most integers and real numbers are too large
 - Address refers to the first byte
 - Next few consecutive bytes can store the additional bits for larger data



Data or Code?

- 'A' may look like 01000001
- 65 may look like 01000001
- An instruction may look like 01000001
- How does the computer know the meaning of 01000001?
 - Interpretation depends on the current instruction
- Programmers rarely need to be concerned with this problem.
 - Reason as if memory locations contain letters and numbers rather than zeroes and ones

Secondary Memory

- Main memory stores instructions and data while a program is running.
- Secondary memory
 - Stores instructions and data between sessions
 - A file stores data or instructions in secondary memory

Secondary Memory Media

- A computer might have any of these types of secondary memory
 - Hard disk
 - Fast
 - Fixed in the computer and not normally removed
 - Floppy disk
 - Slow
 - Easily shared with other computers
 - Compact disk
 - Slower than hard disks
 - Easily shared with other computers
 - Can be read only or re-writable







Main Components of a Computer



Display 1.2



Memory Locations and Bytes

