**What is output?**

Output is processed data or information from a computer. Output typically takes the form of text, graphic, photos and audios. For example, when you create a presentation using a presentation graphic program, you typically input text and graphics. You could also include photographs and even add voice narration. The output would be the completed presentation.

**Output devices**

Are any hardware used to provide or to create output from the computer. The most widely used output devices are monitors, printers, and audio output devices.

**Monitors**

The most frequently used output device is the monitor. Two important characteristics of monitors are size and clarity.

**Cathode-Ray Tube**

These kinds of monitors are typically placed directly on the system unit or on the desktop. CTRs are similar in size and technology to televisions.

**Flat-Panel Monitors**

Portable monitors known as flat panel monitors or liquid crystal display monitors were developed because CRTs are too bulky to be transported. Unlike the technology used in CRTs, the technology for portable monitors involves liquid crystals. There are two types of flat-panel monitors: passive-matrix (dual-scan) and active-matrix (thin film transistor monitors TFT).

**Printers**

The images output on a monitor are often referred to as soft copy. Information output on paper whether by a printer or by a plotter is called hard copy

**Ink-jet printer**

An ink-jet printer sprays small droplets of ink at high speed onto surface on the paper. This process not only produces a letter-quality image but also permits printing to be done on variety of colours.

**Laser Printer**

It uses a technology similar to that used in a photocopying machine. It uses a laser beam to produce images with excellent letter and graphics quality. There are two categories of laser printers: personal laser printers and shared laser printers.

**Thermal Printer**

It has a head that consists of a row of tiny heating elements. The paper has a special coating that returns dark grey when it is heated. By turning appropriate elements on or off as the paper passes the head, the computer can print characters and designs. Thermal printers are inexpensive and silent in operation.

**Audio-output devices**

Translate audio information from the computer into sounds that people can understand. The most widely used audio-output devices are speakers and headphones. These devices are connected to a sound card in the system unit. Audio-output devices are used to play music, vocalize translations from one language to another, and communicate information from the computer system to users.

**Combination input and output devices**

Fax Machine: it is also known as a facsimile transmission machine, is a standard tool in nearly every office. At one time all fax machines were separate stand-alone devices for sending and receiving documents over telephone lines. Now, most computer systems have that capability with the simple addition of a fax/ modem board, which also operates as a modem.