



1. Cooling Fan

A cooling fan is used to stop the system overheating. Some parts get very hot quickly and may need their own cooling fans. It is important to keep these fans clean to keep your computer working at its best.

2. CPU

The brains of a computer where the calculations are done, the CPU performs thousands of calculations per second. A CPU can have multiple cores, each core is its own processor but they are all on the same chip.

3. RAM (Random Access Memory)

As your computer boots it copies data in to the RAM giving the CPU fast access to this information. The more RAM that your computer has the faster your computer will run. Any data stored in the RAM will only be kept in it until the CPU has processed it or the computer is turned off.

4. Graphics Card

The graphics cards produces all the images displayed on the computer screen. The processing of image data is very intensive on both the CPU and RAM. The graphics card is a dedicated device that takes the image processing from the CPU and runs it on a separate graphics processor. All modern PCs have a graphics card, either dedicated or part of the mother board which have their own processor and RAM. Some high-end design applications or 3D games require high performing graphic cards.

5. PSU (Power Supply Unit)

Computer parts need different voltages to work, the PSU converts the power from the mains electrical supply into lower voltages for these parts. It also regulates the voltage to help prevent small fluctuations in the power. The typical voltages it supplies are 3.3 volts, 5 volts and 12 volts.

6. Hard Drive

The hard drive is the device used for storing all digital data, this includes photos, videos and documents. There are different types of hard drive available, standard hard drives have spinning discs that store the data on a magnetic surface, this type of drive is cheap and can hold lots of data. Solid State Drives don't have any moving parts and can access data much quicker than standard hard drives but are more expensive and have a lower capacity.