

[A](#)

AC-3

Also known as 'Dolby Digital' this is the 5.1-channel sound system specified in the Standard for Digital HDTV, delivering quality digital audio from six speakers, front left, right and centre (where most of the 'voice' comes from), rear left and right, and a subwoofer for depth, to produce a cinematic sound! True 5.1-channel sound is only available via a home cinema system.

ADSL

ADSL, an acronym for Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line, is used to transfer a regular telephone line into a high speed Internet connection. ADSL is a type of broadband connection.

AGP

Accelerated Graphics Port. A technology providing speedy data transfers between your PC's processor and video memory. The majority of PCs will have an AGP socket on the motherboard - however, PCI Express has almost completely superseded this technology.

All in One (AIO) Printer

AIO printers combine the ability to print, copy and scan in one machine.

AMD

AMD is a manufacturer of processors. (View CPU for more information)

Aperture Priority

The aperture priority function on a camera fixes the camera exposure to a constant. The camera will automatically adjust the shutter speed in response to the environment in an effort to maintain this constant exposure.

Anti-Virus Software

Anti-Virus software is designed to prevent your computer being damaged by harmful viruses received via the Internet or email attachments.

Aspect Ratio

Aspect ratio refers to the ratio of the width of a picture relative to its height. The aspect ratio of a standard television is 4:3, whereas HDTV has an aspect ratio of 16:9 for a more intense viewing experience. The more common names for HDTV are 'Widescreen' or 'Letter-box'. (View Widescreen for more information)

ATX

Introduced in 1995 and is the largest motherboard size of the AT family.

Audio out sockets

An audio out socket allows a computer or TV to be connected to an external speaker system.

Auto-flash

The most obvious action of the auto-flash feature is that the camera will automatically flash when the light is too low. It will also adjust the level of flash according to the picture settings. Other features, depending on the camera's specifications, may also include red-eye reduction, night-mode, fill-in-flash and action mode.

Auto-focus

As with auto-flash and automatic exposure, auto-focus is where a camera will automatically focus in relation to the subject and environment.

Auto Install

An auto install feature will automatically tune your television with whatever channels the aerial can detect.

Automatic Document Feeder (ADF)

The automatic document feeder function is available on some scanners and printers. It is designed to create an paper feed to allow copy's to be made without having to feed the paper manually.

Automatic Exposure

Automatic exposure features on cameras will automatically adjust the exposure settings to suit the environmental conditions.

B

Bandwidth

Bandwidth is the measurement of the speed and amount of data that can be transferred via a connection – most reference to the Internet and Broadband connections. Bandwidth is measured in megabits per second (Mbps) and the greater the bandwidth the faster the connection.

BIOS

Basic Input/Output System. This is a program inbuilt on a chip within the motherboard. A BIOS set-up utility can just after turning on the PC by hitting the appropriate key. The BIOS performs basic yet important functions to other such as Windows®.

Bit

The smallest amount of data possible.

Bit Rate

'Bits per second' or bps, expresses the rate at which data is transmitted. Generally, the higher the bit rate, the better the image and sound quality.

BlackBerry

'Blackberry' is a brand of hand held devices which allow consumers to access their email e-mail and make phone calls on the one unit.

Bleeding

When printers "bleed" during print, it is a reference to the spreading of ink onto the page. Too much bleeding will distort the image; not enough bleeding will leave too much white space on the page, which will also distort what is printed.

Bluetooth

The Bluetooth feature enables data to be passed between compatible devices wirelessly within short distances using radio frequency.

Borderless Printing

Borderless printing is quite simply printing without a border. Borderless printing fills the page to the edges without a frame effect. Borderless printing can be an issue when considering photo printing.

BPS/Mbps

A measure of speed - Bits Per Second - Bits per second / Megabits per second are used to measure how quickly data is transferred. 1 Mbps is equal to 1 million bits per second.

Broadband

Broadband is a high speed, permanent, Internet connection. The main advantages of Broadband over a dial-up connection are the speed – anywhere from 10 to 100 times faster – and that it operates parallel to the phone line so that you can use the Internet without tying up the phone line.

Brightness

Monitor or Television brightness is measured in candles per meter squared. Therefore the greater the number, the brighter the picture will be.

Browser

A browser is the software application, which allows the user to navigate the Internet. The most popular browsers are Internet Explorer and Firefox.

Built-in Digital Camera Card Reader

Built-in digital camera card readers, allow you to connect your digital camera memory card directly to your printer to easily print your photos.

Built-in LCD Screen

LCD screens are often built in to Cameras and photo printers to allow images to be quickly and easily previewed

Burn

“Burn” or “Burning” in the IT sector refers to the transfer of information onto some form of removable storage device commonly CD or DVD.

Byte

A byte is a collection of eight bits and is a measurement of computer storage space.

C

Cache

Your PC has a cache memory and when you return to a page you have recently viewed, the browser retrieves it rather than the original server, making the process faster.

CardBUS/PCMCIA

Card Bus/PCMCIA is a standardized form of card slot for notebooks. The majority of storage and memory cards follow PCMCIA standards and therefore a Card Bus/PCMCIA compatible notebook can accept the majority of such external storage and memory devices.

Car Dock

A car dock is a cradle and power charger for hand held PCs for when the user is on the move.

Car Mount

Car mounts are designed to hold hand held equipment, such as satellite navigation devices, in position whilst the user is on the move.

Card slot

Some photo printers feature a memory card slot, which allows you to print directly from your digital camera's memory card.

CCD

A charge-coupled device is an integrated, light sensitive, circuit which stores and displays images and converts light into pixels into electrical charges. The intensity of each charge is representative of the colour position on the colour sensor.

CD & DVD Drives

PC users need at least a CD-ROM drive to install software but unless you're buying a budget laptop, then look for a CD-RW drive that you can burn your own CDs. For watching movies and playing games consider a CD-RW drive that doubles as a DVD-ROM drive. Some higher end laptops offer DVD-rewritable drives, which can store up to 8.5GB on one DVD disk but unless you need to store huge files, such as movies or realms of MP3s, you may not need these more expensive DVD-RW drives.

CD/DVD Printing

Some printers have the ability to print onto CDs and/or DVDs.

Clipboard

A clipboard is a temporary storage area for holding cut or copied text and images, when transferring the data to another application, sentence, document or even programmed.

CMYK

CMYK refers to the colour system of the printer. The CMYK system is one of the most popular and is an acronym for the colours it uses; Cyan, Magenta Yellow and Key (Black).

COM

COM Ports, such as COM1 and COM2 etc, are 'serial communication ports'. These are now relatively old technology but dial-up modems plug into COM ports on the back of the PC) - and most devices now use USB instead.

Compact Flash Cards

A compact flash card is a form of memory card which uses flash memory to store data. Compact flash cards are small and as such are ideal for storing data for transfer between devices. Compact flash cards are most commonly used for images taken on digital cameras and can be used to transfer such images to printers or computers.

Component Video

Three connectors (usually red, green and blue RCA jacks) transmit and receive component video signals; the composite video signal conveys all the picture information.

Compression

The process of compression is the reduction or compression of a file's size – most commonly images - to ensure a larger number of files can be stored. However, the more a file is compressed the more distorted it can become.

Computer Memory

Every computer comes equipped with a certain amount of physical memory, usually referred to as RAM (Random Memory). Computers store running applications and data in the RAM. To find out how much memory you will need account your Operating System and the applications that you plan to use. You will need at least 256MB for Windows

Connection Interface

Most printers connect via USB to your PC, though in some cases it might be through a parallel printer cable. Ethernet is used in some printers as this allows you to easily connect the printer to a network.

Console

Console is a generic term used to describe a computer system which is specifically designed for the purpose of playing video games.

Continuous Shooting Mode

The continuous shooting mode allows multiple pictures to be taken in quick succession. When a picture has been taken, it needs to be stored onto some form of memory device. It can take several seconds for the process to be complete, which stops the next photograph being taken. However, with continuous shooting mode the image is instantaneously saved to a temporary file before being transferred to the permanent file later, allowing the photographer to continue 'shooting' without needing to wait between each image. Continuous shooting mode is often used for action shots where the subject is moving and changing.

Contrast

The contrast of a television screen or PC monitor refers to the colouring. Contrast is the ratio of dark colours to light colours. The greater the contrast level is, the more defined the picture will be.

Cookies

When navigating the Internet, user behaviour and details may be stored on your computer when visiting some websites. Files that are created are known as cookies. Cookies can be used to speed up navigation as login details and other preferences can be recalled quickly when returning to some websites.

CPU

CPU (Central Processing Unit) is another term for processor or microprocessor. It is the heart of a PC or laptop, performing the logic circuitry that performs the instructions of a computer's programs. AMD and Intel manufacture nearly all of today's CPUs.

D

Dark Tint

Some monitors and televisions will offer dark tint, which is where the picture tube absorbs light to create sharper and greater contrast.

Data

Data is individual facts, statistics or any information which can be exchanged. When computers exchange information referred to as an exchange of data.

DDR

DDR (double-data-rate) is an integrated memory storage space in computers which transfers data on both the rising and falling edges of the clock-cycle. DDR speeds up the computer system allowing quicker and easier loading, navigation and processing of data.

DDR2

DDR2 is a faster version of DDR memory.

DDR SDRAM

Double Data Rate SDRAM is a commonly used form of memory. Several memory chips are attached to a circuit board with different capabilities and speed ratings.

DSL

DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) is a technology used for transferring high-bandwidth information into homes and businesses. DSL is a type of broadband connection that is commonly used by cable providers.

Desktop PC

A desktop PC is a personal computer designed to offer greater functionality and more upgrade options than a laptop computer. However, Desktop PCs are also designed to remain stationary e.g. within the office or home study rather than mobile and, as a result, are much larger machines which can be difficult to manoeuvre.

Digital Camera Card Readers

An alternative to plugging your digital camera into a computer, or the digital camera card into some printers, is a card reader which is plugged into the user's computer and can be left plugged in. All the user needs to do is plug the card into the reader to access it.

Digital Desktop PC

Digital desktop PCs are much like standard Desktop PCs, but with a greater multimedia focus. Digital desktop PCs offer the ability to enjoy your favourite entertainment features, such as the recording and viewing of DVDs, television, etc all on the one system.

Digital Tuner

A digital tuner is a device which allows televisions and monitors to receive digital television signals. A digital tuner can be built-in to the monitor or the television or the monitor may require an additional satellite or cable unit to enable this.

Digital Zoom

Unlike optical zoom, digital zoom will delete the pixels outside the selected zoom area and refill the space by enlarging the remaining pixels.

DIMM

DIMM -Dual Inline Memory Module - Another commonly used type of memory.

Direct Printing

Direct printing refers to the ability of digital cameras to be connected directly to the printer with prints being produced without the aid of a computer.

Display Resolution

The display resolution is the number of pixels which can be displayed at one time on a television or computer monitor.

DMA

Direct Memory Access is a way to transfer data to, or from, memory quickly. A DMA controller takes the workload - leaving the processor to perform other tasks.

Docking Station

A 'docking station' contains a mixture of ports, slots, drive bays and security features, and it usually attaches to the laptop underneath. Docking stations come in a variety of shapes and sizes and allow you to park your laptop when you are at your desk, giving you an easy connection to a monitor, a conventional keyboard, additional storage devices and the convenience of leaving cables plugged in when you remove your laptop to take it on the move.

Domain name

The domain name is the name used in the web address to relate to the name of the company or organisation. For example, the domain name is dns-direct.co.uk as the web address is <http://www.dns-direct.co.uk>

Dongle

Dongle is a generic slang term for devices which connect to a PC via a USB port, for example; Bluetooth and wireless network adapters.

Download

Download is the term used to describe the process of transferring and copying of data from the Internet on to the local computer.

DPI

DPI – Dots per inch – specifies how many dots there are per inch of image. When printing images, the printer creates the image through a series of dots. A general rule of DPI is that the greater the DPI is greater the definition of the image will appear.

Drivers

Any peripheral that you attach to your PC or laptop, such as printers, scanners and sound cards will require a driver program (usually supplied on a CD or DVD when you purchase the peripheral) that acts as the interface between the Operating System and the peripheral. It is worth noting that if you have a problem with any peripheral, you can often resolve issues by downloading the latest version of drivers for that product on the Internet.

Dual Core

Dual-core computers combine two processor chips into one allowing the computer to operate more quickly and run more applications simultaneously in comparison to a single core processor.

Duplex

A duplex function on a printer allows automatic printing on both sides of a single sheet of paper.

Duty Cycle

The duty cycle is the maximum usage level per month for a printer. You should choose a printer with a duty cycle that meets your current production needs to ensure a longer life for your printer.

DVD

DVD - Digital Versatile Disc – is a large storage capacity disc. Most computers today have the ability to read DVD's. Computers today also have the ability to write and re-write (also known as 'burn') DVD's. This simply means that you can transfer data onto DVD's for storage.

DVI

Digital Video Interface - DVI - is a type of cable connector which provides a high-bandwidth, digital connection between a video source and a display device.

DVI/HDMI

HDMI or High Definition Multimedia Interface provides an interface between any audio/video sources over a single cable.

DVI or Digital Visual Interface is a high-bandwidth video connection that carries digitalised picture information. It supports copy-protection methods. The DVI specification allows for the presentation device and display device to be configured for optimal picture size and resolution to ensure the highest quality picture automatically.

It is necessary for an HD-Ready TV to have HDMI or DVI connectivity in order for it to receive the digital signal. / market sporting the new HD-Ready logo will be able to produce at least a true 720p image.

Dye-based Ink

Dye-based inks are water soluble and easily achieve brilliant, saturated colours.

E

E-Commerce

E-Commerce meaning electronic commerce is often referred to when people speak of online spending and the purchase of goods and services via the Internet.

E-mail

E-mail (electronic mail) gives the computer user the ability to communicate and exchange information with other users via an electronic communications link.

Encryption/WEP Encryption

The process of encryption is the scrambling of data and information in an attempt to secure it. This is achieved so that only the sender or receiver has the ability to unscramble, or unlock, the data.

Enhanced G

Enhanced g is a faster version of the 802.11g products such as routers produced by Belkin, Linksys etc. The enhanced versions can reach speeds of up to 125Mbps.

Entertainment PC

An entertainment PC, unlike a standard desktop PC for example, is a PC which has been developed with a focus on entertainment features. Gaming, watching and recording DVDs and TV, and music functionality for example will be prominent applications.

EPG

Electronic Programme Guide - an on-screen display of channels and programme data.

Ethernet

Computers, switches, hubs and routers, amongst other computer peripherals, can all be connected with the use of Ethernet cable.

Exposure Compensation

Exposure compensation is a camera feature, which will under expose or over expose a subject for effect, or to correct for an environmental flaw such as lighting issues, for example.

External Drives

External drives connect to your desktop PC or laptop via a cable and are available in a variety of shapes and sizes. They connect to the desktop PC or laptop via the USB or FireWire port. External drives include external floppy, CD-RW, DVD-ROM, DVD-RW, hard drives, ZIP, and many more. There are also smaller external drives, often called Flash Drives that plug directly into your USB port without the need for a cable. These flash drives are fantastic for transferring data between laptops or allowing you to carry multimedia files around easily.

External Flash Terminal

An external flash terminal is a port on a camera which allows an independent flash unit to be attached.

F

Fasttext

Fasttext, quite simply is fast Teletext. Fasttext allows quicker and easier navigation of Teletext pages. Favourite pages are stored and linked to. Other pages can be linked to instantly via the coloured buttons on the remote control.

File

Files are collections of data and information which are generally named and stored within 'folders' on a computer.

Firewall

A firewall is a security device which prevents potential viruses and bugs from corrupting a computer system. The same way as a barrier or gate by only allowing authorised and secure data and information to be downloaded.

FireWire

Most modern PCs have a FireWire socket. FireWire is a technology for linking peripherals such as digital cameras to enable data to be transferred at a high-speed.

FireWire Connection

A FireWire connection is a high-speed connection between FireWire equipped computers and consumer peripherals with FireWire connections such as digital cameras and camcorders. FireWire connections have an emphasis on being simple and easy to use, as well as being very quick.

Fixed Focal-Length Lens

If you just want to take pictures of groups of your mates then a budget camera with a fixed-focal-length lens is probably your best bet. As these are the lowest spec on the market, there's usually no optical zoom but if you look for a camera with macro and landscape modes then the lens will offer a relatively wide angle of view.

Fixed Zoom lenses

As the name suggests fixed zoom lenses have a fixed lens attached to the body, but they also allow the user to use lens converters for wide-angle and close-up shooting as well as filters and flash ring units. These cameras can be more compact than the retractable zoom types and more complicated to operate but they do offer higher resolution images.

Flash

Flash is used on a camera to provide artificial light on a subject where visibility is poor. This feature is fairly standard on most cameras today.

Flat Panel Monitor

Flat Panel monitors come in different types – LCD and Plasma – but share the common trait of being slim and flat. They are generally only 3-4 inches deep, a far cry from their predecessors the much bulkier CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) monitors. For more information refer to LCD TV for more information – or - To view DNS's latest LCD deals click here) (Please refer to Plasma for more information – or - To view DNS's latest Plasma deals click here)

Floppy Disk Drive

A floppy disk drive is a drive which can read or write removable storage media known as floppy disks. Hard disk drives have replaced a lot of floppy disk usage.

Folder

Computer folders act in a similar way to physical office folders. Computer folders are used for organising and storing information and 'files' so that the user can access the correct information quickly and easily. Such folders are organised according to the user's needs and preferences.

Footprint

The desk space taken up by a printer, often referred to as its footprint, is also worth considering.

FSB

The FSB (front side bus speed) is the speed at which your processor will communicate with the other components of the computer. The greater the FSB then the greater the speed and the quicker the machine will operate.

G

GB (Gigabyte)

A gigabyte (GB) is a term used for the measurement of storage capacity. One (1) GB is approximately equal to 1,000 Megabyte (MB). The greater the number of GB, then the greater the storage memory capacity will be.

GHz (Gigahertz)

GHz (gigahertz) is a term used for the measurement of transmission speed – how quickly a computer can exchange information. 1 GHz is equal to 1,000 megahertz (MHz). The greater the number of GHz then the quicker the microprocessor can operate.

GIF

GIF – Graphic Interchange Format – is a widely used image storage format. Images created and/or saved in GIF format can be easily viewed on compatible machines and online.

GPS

GPS – Global Positioning System – is a global system for position, tracking and assessing people and places via satellites.

Graphics Card

The graphics card sits within a computer's hardware and reads, processes and displays the graphics on the monitor. Different graphics cards can differ from make and model and so the quality of graphics displayed differs accordingly.

Graphics Memory

Graphics memory is simply how much memory storage is available to the graphics card.

H

Hard Drives (also referred to as HDD)

Hard drives provide you with space to save programs and files. You'll only need a 20GB or 30GB drive unless you are on storing lots of movies or thousands of images. However, be warned that capacity alone does not make a good hard drive. The hard disk's rotational speed also makes a huge difference. For example a 5400rpm laptop disk delivers significantly better performance than a 4200rpm model. The faster the disk spins, the better your desktop PC or laptops performance.

Hard Drive Capacity

The hard drive capacity is quite simply how much storage space is available on a hard drive. The capacity is generally measured in GB and will alter from one hard drive to the next. The greater the level of available Gigabytes on a hard drive, the greater the storage capacity (Also, view [Hard Drive](#))

HDCP

HDCP is a copyright protection system that is incorporated into HD receivers and displays. It stands for High Definition Content Protection and prevents unauthorised use of content which is copyrighted.

HDMI

HDMI or High Definition Multimedia Interface provides an interface between any audio/video sources over a single cable. HDCP can be run over a HDMI connection.

It is necessary for an HD-Ready TV to have HDMI or DVI connectivity in order for it to receive the digital signal. Only TV's on the market sporting the new HD-Ready logo will be able to produce at least a true 720p image.

(View dns-direct.co.uk/hd for more information)

HD-Ready TV

The HD-Ready logo appears on all TV screens and projectors that are compatible with HDTV signals. HD-Ready TV's must meet the following specification:

- Minimum 720 vertical lines (the latter figure when a resolution is written out, e.g. 1280 x 720),
- Analogue component video and either DVI or HDMI inputs,
- Support for HDCP content protection,
- Able to display 720p (1280 x 720 at 50Hz and 60Hz progressive),
- Able to display 1080i (1920 x 1080 at 50Hz and 60Hz interlaced)

(View dns-direct.co.uk/hd for more information)

720-line HD

The 720-line system is the most common format for the launch of HD television. The 720-line system is 1280 pixels wide and the resolution is 1280 x 720, giving just over twice the resolution of a 625-line standard definition picture.

(View dns-direct.co.uk/hd for more information)

1080-line HD

The 1080-line system is the other common HD format. A 1080-line system has 1080 vertical pixels and 1920 horizontal pixels, giving with up to five times the resolution of a standard definition picture. ([View dns-direct.co.uk/hd for more information](http://dns-direct.co.uk/hd))

Headphone

Headphones are personal audio devices which are attached to the user's ears and allow the user to listen to the audio output of a computer, for example, without interrupting those around them.

Headphone Socket

The headphone socket allows you to connect your headphones to a computer, monitor or television and listen to audio without the aid of speakers.

Hz (Hertz)

Hz (hertz) is a term used for the measurement of transmission speed – how quickly a computer can exchange/transmit information. The greater the number of Hz then the quicker the machines processor can operate. Named in honour of German physicist Heinrich Rudolf Hertz



IEEE 1394

IEEE 1394 is another term for FireWire. ([View FireWire](#) for more information)

Inkjet Printers

Inkjet printers create images by shooting tiny dots of ink through tiny nozzles. Those tiny nozzles are configured print head, which takes the journey back and forth across the page. As the print head finishes each trip to and fro moves forward so the print head can continue its work across the next few lines.

Integrated MP3 Player

Many hand-held devices on the market today, such as mobile phones and PDAs, will have integrated MP3 player that as well as carrying out their standard functions they can also download and play music from the Internet and computers.

Integrated Print Server

An integrated print server is a built-in device which allows a series of computers and/or printers to communicate network.

Integrated Speakers

Integrated speakers are speakers which are built in to the unit casing. Most televisions and multimedia monitors in speakers of some standard.

Internet

The Internet is a global network that allows people to communicate and exchange, goods, services and informat

Intel

Intel is a manufacturer of processors. ([View CPU](#) for more information)

Intel Celeron

The Intel Celeron is an entry level processor which is found in most low-cost PCs and Notebooks.

Intel Pentium D

Pentium D is a model of processor introduced by Intel. The Pentium D processor combines two processors onto greater speed and functionality of machine.

Intel Pentium M

The Intel Pentium M processor was designed by Intel specifically for use in notebooks. It is smaller in size, lighte focused on notebook functionality.

Intel Viiv

Intel Viiv is Intel's identification symbol that a particular PC or Notebook is a Digital Entertainment focused mach home, which operates with the use of the necessary Intel processor.

Intelligent Shuffle Function

Intelligent shuffle function is quite a widely available feature on audio devices such as MP3 players, CD players function will randomly select which songs/tracks to play.

Intranet

An Intranet is an internal computer system built around the Internet but with access and functionality focused an meet the needs of the specific organisation, business or school that it is maintained by.

ISDN

ISDN – Integrated Services Digital Network – is a network connection which uses the existing telephone network provides greater quality and speed of connection. An adapter is required for businesses and home users to use

ISP

An ISP – Internet Service Provider – provides the Internet access function for the computers of consumers and t

alike. Some popular ISPs are AOL, NTL, Orange, Tiscali etc.

J

Java

Java is a language used for computer programming as it can be 'read' on all computer platforms. It can be used applications and is designed to allow the user to interact with web pages.

Javascript

Javascript is a simplified version of script language in comparison to Java. JavaScript was created by Netscape developers to create web pages with greater interaction functionality.

JPEG

JPEG, an acronym for Joint Photographic Experts Group. A JPEG is a compressed (or reduced) image file which primarily online. JPEGs discard data deemed unnecessary in order to reduce the image size.

K

KB (Kilobyte)

A kilobyte (KB) is a term used for the measurement of a computer's storage capacity. 1 KB is equal to 1,000 bytes.

Keyboard

A keyboard is a data input device for computers based loosely on the typewriter design incorporating symbols and keys as well as letters and numbers.

KHz (Kilohertz)

Kilohertz is a term used for measuring the frequency of electric vibrations per second. 1KHz is equal to 1,000 cycles per second. Named in honour of the German physicist Heinrich Rudolf Hertz.



LAN

A LAN- Local Area Network - consists of two or more computers that can communicate with each other to enable printers to be shared. A LAN can connect PCs either physically with wires, or wirelessly.

Laser Printers (Colour and Mono)

Laser Printers use Laser technology to create high definition prints of text and images. Laser Printers are generally more sophisticated and higher quality in comparison to Inkjet printers, and as a result are generally more expensive. (For direct's latest Laser Printer deals, [click here](#))

LCD TV

LCD stands for Liquid Crystal Display. This means that the screen is made up of millions of tiny liquid crystal molecules. These function like a camera shutter, allowing light to either pass through or be blocked as voltage is applied so they change state to create an 'image'. The colour is added to the LCD display through three filters (red, green and blue) that are applied to each pixel. LCD TV screens always maintain sharp, clear pictures without reflection from artificial bright sunlight through windows.

LCD technology is extremely lightweight therefore products are both highly portable and versatile. With screen sizes from 13" (4:3) to 40"+ widescreen, this means you can watch LCD TV wherever you want!

LCD TVs also produce flicker-free images for a more comfortable viewing experience with less eyestrain, even when viewed close-up. Also, since no static electricity is generated on an LCD screen it remains virtually dust free and clean for viewing all the time.

Li-ion

Li-ion – Lithium ion batteries – are a lightweight, rechargeable, high-power battery. It is these features which lend Li-ion batteries being widely used in the Digital camera and camcorder markets.

M

Macro Mode

Macro mode allows a digital camera to take pictures extremely close-up to the subject. On some cameras this feature allows photos to be taken from less than 10cm to subject.

Manual Exposure

Manual exposure allows the exposure settings of a camera to be manually adjusted by the user to suit the environmental lighting conditions.

Manual Focus

As with manual-flash and manual exposure, manual focus is where a camera can be manually focused in relation to subject and environment.

Manual ISO Overrides

Many cameras come with pre-determined ISO (International standards organisation) settings. So, for example, in some environments a camera's functions and settings will automatically adjust to meet a particular ISO standard but in other environments the settings will adjust to meet another particular ISO standard. The user, however, may choose to use the ISO override function so that they have complete manual control over the camera's settings.

MB (Megabyte)

A byte is a collection of eight bits and is a measurement of computer storage space. One Megabyte is worth one thousand bytes. The greater the number of bytes then the greater the storage capacity will be.

Mbps / BPS

Megabits per second / Bits per second are used to measure how quickly data can be transferred. 1 Mbps is equal to 1,000,000 bits per second.

Media Card Reader

An alternative to plugging your digital camera into a computer or the digital camera card into some printers is a media card reader which allows the media card to be read on the computer without any need for cables or external adapters.

Megapixel (MP)

Obviously, a digital camera doesn't store images on film, instead when you take a picture, light is captured by the Charge Coupled Device (CCD) and stored as a matrix of red, blue and green coloured squares. These squares are known as pixels with one mega pixel referring to 1 million pixels. Therefore the more pixels there are, the better the image.

Technology has evolved, mobile phones now include 1 or even 2 MP capabilities and so generally the 3 megapixel is the lowest spec on the market today. If you plan to publish images on the web or include them in an email either under 3MP or compress larger images otherwise file sizes become too large.

Memory Type

Digital cameras can use a variety of memory storage devices, differing from each model, or manufacturer, to the most common types are compact flash memory cards and SD cards.

Memory Type DDR

DDR is an integrated memory storage space in computers which transfers data on both the rising and falling edge of the clock-cycle. The DDR speeds up the computer system allowing quicker and easier loading, navigation and storage.

Memory - RAM

Every computer comes equipped with a certain amount of physical memory, usually referred to as RAM (Random Access Memory). Computers store running applications and data using the RAM. To find out how much memory you'll need, take into account your operating system and the applications that you plan to use. You'll need at least 256MB for Windows.

MHz (Megahertz)

Hertz (hertz) and Megahertz (MHz) are terms used for the measurement of transmission speed – how quickly a computer can exchange/transfer information. The greater the number of MHz then the quicker the machine's processor can operate.

in honour of the German physicist Heinrich Rudolf Hertz

Micro-ATX

Smaller than Mini-ATX and developed to support latest PC technologies.

Microfilter

Microfilter devices are used to split the phone line in to two – telephone and data connection. It also prevents the crossing and causing a crackling effect whilst the telephone is in use.

Microsoft Windows

Microsoft Windows is the most successful series of computer operating software to reach the market. Microsoft provides a graphical user interface (GUI), memory management, task management, multi-task features as well as peripheral products. As the computer industry and market needs have changed so have the requirements of the System. To meet the evolving needs of the consumer Microsoft has updated and released numerous versions of Windows Operating System;

Microsoft Windows XP

Microsoft Windows XP Media Centre

Microsoft Windows Mobile Version 5.0

Microsoft Windows Vista

Microsoft Windows XP

Microsoft Windows XP was launched in 2005 with improved functionality and security features to replace Windows XP is available in two versions – Home and Pro. Home is targeted at the Home PC users and Pro at b

Microsoft Windows XP Media Centre

Microsoft Windows XP Media Centre which launched alongside Microsoft Windows XP but with a multimedia focus. Such additional features included enhanced ability to view record and listen to DVDs, television and music

Microsoft Windows Mobile Version 5.0

Microsoft Windows Mobile Version 5.0 is a reduced version of Microsoft Windows which acts as the operating system many handheld PCs and smart phones. This software has a focus on portability functionality.

Microsoft Windows Vista

Microsoft Windows Vista is the latest version in the Microsoft Windows series which was launched through license November 2006 and publicly in January 2007. Microsoft Windows Vista boasts enhanced security features, the Explorer functions and generally greater functionality and usability.

MIMO

MIMO – Multiple Input Multiple Output – is a technology devices devised to increase the ability for wireless bandwidth. The increased bandwidth and range is achieved by using multiple antennae at both the transmitter and receiver

Mini-ATX

Same as ATX but smaller motherboard size: 11.2" x 8.2"

Modem

A modem is a tool used to transfer data between two sources via a telephone connection. A modem can be used for Internet; however, the use of a standard modem is viewed as slow in comparison to modern broadband connections

Monitor

Computer monitors, displays or screens, are devices which show both moving and still images generated by the computer. In today's marketplace the monitor types available range from CRT monitors, to flat panel monitors such as LCD and LED

Motherboard

A motherboard is the heart of your PC. It is the main circuit board in the computer and connects all devices together.

Mouse

The 'mouse' is a key computer peripheral which allows the user to navigate their computer visually with the aid of a mouse pointer – this pointer is controlled by the hand-held mouse. This mouse/pointer combination is crucial to a computer's functionality. Some mice today are wireless which means that there is no obvious visible connection between the mouse and the computer.

MPEG2

MPEG2 is a compression format for transferring data – specifically Digital Video Signals – onto DVDs.

MP3

MP3's are the compressed format of audio files used on computers and portable devices. MP3's gained their prominence with the launch of Apple's iPod; a portable, hand-held device which could store hundreds of CDs on a small sized device, once they were compressed into MP3 files.

MP4

MP4's are the compressed format of not only audio files (like MP3s) but all multimedia files – moving pictures included. The compression of multimedia files allows improved transfer and storage capacity.

MPEG4

MPEG4 is the compression format used to compress audio, video, voice and related formats of data. This compression allows quick transfers of data and increased storage capacity.

Multifunction Printers (MFPs)

All-in-one, or multifunction printers combine a printer with a scanner and/or fax. With an all-in-one printer you can print documents and either store them in your PC or print them out immediately, so your machine works as a copier. You can also scan documents, and either send them to your PC for faxing, or fax them directly from the multifunction.

Multi Mode Flash

A multi mode flash function includes additional features to the 'flash,' such as red-eye reduction.

N

NAT

NAT – Network Address Translation – is a technique used on many network systems to allow multiple computers to access the Internet via one address. NAT temporarily re-writes each computer's address so that all the computers on the network appear to have the same address (in essence all the computers on the network will appear to be the same machine to the Internet).

Network

A network is a system of connecting several independent computers and/or printers through a central function, where information and functionality can be shared.

Network Printer

A network printer is a printer which has the capability to be used by more than one computer connected via a network.

NIC

NIC, or Network Interface Card is an expansion card that plugs into a PC to give it the capability to connect to a network.

Nicam

Nicam – Near instantaneous companded audio multiplex – is the format by which digital audio sound is presented through analogue television. Nicam was adopted and launched officially by the BBC, in the UK, in 1983.



OLED Display

OLED – Organic light emitting diode- displays use substances which emit blue, red, green and white light to display. These substances are the only source of illumination for the display yet still achieve extremely bright and clear images.

On-screen Display

An on-screen display is an image which is super-imposed onto the screen generally for the purpose of displaying information. For example, an on-screen display will allow the user to view and often alter settings such as volume, time etc.

Operating System

The Operating System is the software which manages a computer's functionality, its internal programmes and all additional software to operate. The most common operating system is the Microsoft Windows series.

Optical Drives;

CD-ROM drive: Only reads CDs. Holds the same as 1000 floppy discs or approximately 100 MP3 files or 1000 images in a digital camera (at medium resolution).

DVD-ROM drive: Plays DVDs and CDs. A DVD holds as much as 12,000 floppy discs. Enough for approximately 100 MP3 files.

CD-RW drive: Plays and records CDs.

Combo drive: Plays and records CDs, plays DVDs.

DVD±RW drive: Plays DVDs and CDs and also records DVDs and CDs.

DVD dual layer: Records double the amount of storage compared to a standard DVD recorder drive 9.4GB versus 4.7GB.

Dual format DVD recording: Records both plus (+) and (-) formats, allowing you total recording flexibility to be able to use all types of DVD players.

Light Scribe: Burn pictures or writes directly onto the back of your disc for easy labelling.

Optical Zoom

Optical zoom is the adjustment and focusing of a lens to zoom in and out of a subject. Optical zoom does not sacrifice resolution quality in a way in which digital zoom can.

Overclocking

Overclocking involves increasing the clock speed of the components to more than was originally intended by the manufacturer of the components, which forces the components to work harder and faster to speed up the machine.

P

PAL

PAL – phase-altering line – is the colour encoding system for the broadcast of television images. PAL is the system used throughout much of Europe, South-East Asia and Australasia

Palmtop/PDA

A palmtop computer is essentially an electronic personal organiser with slightly increased capability with features such as Internet and e-mail access and some gaming capabilities etc. A palmtop is small enough to fit into a user's palm even.

Paper Tray Capacity

The paper tray capacity is the maximum amount of sheets of paper that the printer can store in its tray at any time.

Parental Lock

Parental lock features are often available on Internet browsers and more recently digital television and satellite/cable. It's a system feature which simply allows parents to control and block their children from viewing particular programs or websites.

PC

PC is quite simply an acronym for Personal Computer.

PC Card

A PC Card is a credit card-shaped device that plugs into the PCMCIA (Type II PC Card) slot on your laptop. Modem connections (e.g. for your digital camcorder) and wireless LAN radios are all available in PC Card form. PC Cards are popular because they're easy to upgrade and affordable. However, most laptops come with only one or two Type II PC Card slots forcing you to limit the number of PC Cards you can add.

PCI

PCI – Peripheral Component Interconnect – is a slot on a computer unit which allows additional functionality devices to be added to the computer, such as sound and graphics cards.

PCI Card

There are a number of PCI sockets on the motherboard and these can be used to plug-in PCI Cards to extend the system's functions. It allows peripherals such as sound cards and TV tuners to interface with the rest of the system.

PCMCIA

PCMCIA's - Personal Computer Memory Card International Association – are standardised, small, credit-card sized devices which can be used for networking, modem connections, additional memory and more. PCMCIA cards are most commonly used for notebooks but can also be used on desktop PCs via an adapter.

PDA/Palmtop

A PDA is essentially an electronic personal organiser with increased capability and feature functionality such as Internet and e-mail access and some gaming capabilities etc. A PDA is small enough to fit into a user's hand.

PDF

PDF – Portable Document Format – is the capturing of a document in an image format. By standardising the document format it will appear as intended regardless of which computer it is viewed on. PDF was created by Adobe.

Photo Printer

A photo printer is similar to a standard printer however is specifically designed for the printing of photos and high resolution images onto photo paper.

Picolitre

Ink droplet size is measured in picolitres, so for printing the smaller the picolitre volume, the more defined the image.

Pictbridge

Pictbridge is an industry standard term for printing directly from camera (with/without the use of USB) without the connecting to a computer.

Pixel

A pixel is literally a single dot on the screen and the pixels form the image on your display. Therefore the more pixels the better the picture. With HDTV there are many more pixels (typically 1920 x 1080 or 1280 x 720) than with Standard TV (720 x 576), giving a crisper, clearer and sharper picture.

Pixel Resolution

The pixel resolution indicates the number of pixels displayed on a monitor or screen. The greater the number of pixels the sharper and the higher the resolution will appear.

Plasma Screen TV

The screens on Plasma TV's are perfectly flat. They produce natural, vibrant colours while also maintaining a high level of detail. This is because the pixels on a Plasma screen are 'lit' at once, unlike normal TVs, where the image is scanned across the screen. The image is therefore sharper and brighter.

This is great for regular room lighting and can be watched from most distances and angles without affecting your viewing experience. Even as you get closer to the screen, you will not be affected by changes in picture or colour quality. Plasma screens are a few inches thin which provides a lot of options when it comes to installation.

In addition to stand mounting, they can be hung on a wall or from a ceiling. All plasma TVs are designed in wide screen formats.

Plasma displays do not use electron beams, as conventional TV displays do. They are therefore immune to the effects of magnetic fields. This allows for speakers to be placed quite close and will not compromise your home cinema setup.

Plug and Play

Plug and Play is a term which refers to the capabilities of a PC/Notebook's Operating System and its ability to 'recognise' a new device. Windows systems boast plug and play capability which, in theory, means that devices simply have to be connected to be functional, without a need for additional software installation.

Plug-in Removable Hard Drive

A plug-in removable hard drive is a detachable hard drive which can be plugged in and removed from your PC without the need for additional memory space.

Port Replicator

A 'port replicator' is a smaller, stripped-down version of a docking station that mainly features ports, such as USB, FireWire, and Ethernet. A port replicator can range from the size of a tube of toothpaste to that of a docking station. A port replicator is a handy way to increase your connectivity whilst on the go as it's smaller and lighter.

PPI (Pixels per inch)

PPI – pixels per inch – is the measurement unit for digital images. And as the name suggests is a simple gauge of how many pixels there are per-inch of image. The greater the PPI then the greater definition there should be to the image.

PPM

PPM – pages per minute – indicates the number of pages a printer can print within a minute. The PPM capacity varies from black and white printing to colour.

Processor/Processor Type

Processor, sometimes referred to as the CPU (Central Processing Unit), is the brain of the PC/ laptop. It's the microchip in a PC/laptop with. There are a variety of processor types available depending on their application.

Processor Speed

Processor speed indicates how quickly the CPU (central processing unit) operates- the CPU is in effect the "engine" of the computer, the faster the engine can run usually indicates the better machine. And like cars, the quicker the processor the more the processor will cost. Processor speed is measured in MHz.

R

Radio Tuner

Some PCs will have a built-in radio tuner which allows the user to listen to FM and Digital Radio through the PC.

RAID

Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks is a way of ensuring data is not lost and speeding up access by spreading data across several drives.

RAM - Memory

Every computer comes equipped with a certain amount of physical memory, usually referred to as RAM (Random Access Memory). Computers store running applications and data using the RAM. To find out how much memory you'll need, take into account your operating system and the applications that you plan to use. You'll need at least 256MB for Windows.

RDRAM

RDRAM (Rambus Dynamic Random Access Memory) is a revolutionary type of DRAM that uses a 16-18 bit data bus, designed to operate with FSB speed of 800MHz, producing a burst transfer rate of 1.6 GHz.

This type of memory was originally the only standard supported by Intel Pentium 4 motherboards. Concerns from that Intel and the memory maker Rambus could control the memory market, led to DDR Memory being introduced.

Rear Projection

Rear projection is a term used for the process in which images are displayed on a television. The picture is projected onto a mirror in the rear of the television onto the viewing screen.

Rechargeable Battery

Rechargeable batteries are more and more common in modern digital portable devices such as digital cameras, MP3 players, and PDAs. Using rechargeable batteries cuts down on the cost of replacing standard alkaline batteries.

Remote Control

A remote control allows the user to access and alter the functionality of a system – most commonly televisions, but also recently Entertainment PCs - from a detached handheld device.

Removable Personal Media Drive

Removable personal media drive is an easily removable device which attaches to the main body of the computer to provide greater storage capacity. Such devices are ideal for the storage of large, memory draining files, such as video, audio, and images.

Resolution

Resolution refers to the number of dots per inch (dpi) that appear on the page - usually represented as a horizontal measurement (e.g.: 600 x 300 dpi). This is crucial to determining the quality of image a printer can produce. 600 dpi is adequate for most home applications.

Retractable Zoom Lens

For those who want a stylish compact camera with the option to zoom in on the action, go for a camera with a retractable zoom lens. This type of camera is easy to transport as the lens is retracted into the camera body when the camera is in its closed mode. Usually featuring 2 or 3x optical zoom and a limited variety of focus controls, this camera is perfect for the next step from a fixed-focal-length lens.

Router

A router is a device which routes the flow of information around a network.

S

SATA

SATA, Serial ATA, hard drives offer a newer technology than ATA - with slimmer cables and a greater performance plus a hot-swappable power connector.

Sat Nav (Satellite Navigation)

A Satellite Navigation system (Sat Nav) is a small device which uses satellite signals to determine the unit's current location and plot its course according to the information being received from the satellite. The popularity of Sat Nav has increased recently as they have become more user friendly for motorists. Sat Nav systems today can be small dashboard mounted devices which will allow a user to select and be directed along a particular route. Ideal for when a user is unfamiliar with a destination.

SCART Cables

SCART cables are an information/data feed so that external sources such as DVD players, can be viewed on a television.

SCART Sockets

The SCART sockets are the connection points for SCART cables on a television or other Audio Visual device. The number of SCART sockets on a television will determine how much peripheral AV equipment can be connected to the television at any given time.

SD Cards

SD cards – Secure Digital cards – are portable memory devices which are used for storing data from digital devices such as digital cameras. The SD card is highly compatible between numerous devices which has boosted its popularity.

SDRAM

Synchronous dynamic random access memory delivers bursts of data at high speeds using a synchronous interface. It is actually SDR SDRAM (single data rate SDRAM) but is usually referred to as just "SDRAM." This standard was introduced in the late 1990's originally available with a bus speed of 66MHz.

Self Timer

Self timer is a basic function on cameras which allows the user to position and set-up a shot but delay the shutter release. It is most commonly used to allow the photographer to appear in the shot.

Shockproof

Shockproof devices, such as MP3 players, can withstand knocks or blows without interrupting their functionality.

Shutter Priority

Shutter priority is a camera function by which the user selects the shutter speed and the camera will automatically adjust the aperture exposure to suit the light. This technique is useful for preventing motion blur.

Single Lens Reflex (SLR's)

Single Lens Reflex (or SLRs, as they are more commonly known) allow the user to completely detach the lens from the camera and exchange it using interchangeable lenses. These cameras are the most expensive on the market and offer users between 6 and 12 megapixels. They provide flexibility and have the added bonus that you don't have to upgrade the quality of the lens.

Sleep Timer

Sleep timer allows a user to set a time at which a television or radio, for example, will automatically turn-off.

Software

Software is a program which can be loaded on to a computer to enable the user to carry out different tasks. The software available are wide ranging from basic production activity software such as word processing and spreadsheet software to complex gaming software.

SOHO

Small Office/Home Office. Commonly used for products aimed at small businesses or those working from home.

Sound Card

A sound card is a small device which allows music and sound effects to be played through either internal or external by the computer. Most computers have built-in sound cards; however sound cards can be added externally.

Spam

Spam is the electronic format of junk mail. Unsolicited, commercial e-mails are sent to the user with the intention user to part with their money. Anti-spam software and devices are available which can greatly reduce the level of is receiving.

Speakers

User requirements for speakers will differ depending on their function needs. A basic computer user, who uses it mainly for basic tasks such as word processing and spreadsheet creation, will find the standard built-in speakers more than adequate. However, surround sound speakers and sub-woofers will appeal to a consumer looking to new plasma TV, for example, or a computer user with a keen interest in multimedia functions such as creating their own DVDs.

SSID

SSID – Service set identifier- is the name of a wireless local area network. The name is set by the network administrator. Only user PCs which share the SSID can enter onto the network.

Standard Definition (SDTV)

This is the traditional definition television system, currently used. A standard definition picture is 720 x 576 pixels

Start-up Speed

This is the time it takes for the printer to print out the first page from the moment it is switched on.

S-Video (Separate Video)

An S-Video function – separate video – will separate the colour and brightness data entering into a television from receiver such as a DVD player, to create a clearer picture.

I

Tablet PC

A tablet PC is a portable PC, similar to a notebook but without a keyboard. The tablet PC will function either by touch or with the use of a digital pen.

TFT/LCD Monitors

LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) monitors are space saving flat panel displays. They are sometimes referred to as TFT (Thin Film Transistors). They use a similar display technology to that in a digital watch but are much more sophisticated.

The major selling point of LCD monitors is their stylish design and slim profile, which creates a smaller "footprint" and weigh approximately half as much as CRTs and also require half as much power and emit much less electromagnetic radiation.

LCD monitors provide bright, sharp displays as each pixel is produced by a tiny cell which contains a thin layer of liquid crystals. They also have a higher resolution than an equally sized CRT monitor and so the visible screen is larger.

TIFF file

TIFF – Tagged Image File Format – is a file format by which images can be saved, and shared. The TIFF format is a widely accessible format which allows the user great freedom in not only distribution and displaying of the images but also the availability of compatible programmes for editing TIFF images.

Toner

Toner is a digitized dry ink powder used in laser printer printing. For colour laser printing 4 colours are required: black, yellow, cyan and magenta.

Touch Screen Control

Touch screen controls are available on many portable devices such as Sat Nav systems for quick and easy control.

Transparency Adapter

A transparency adapter is a feature added to scanners to allow the scanning of transparent documentation such as negatives and slides.

Trojan

Corrupt files, programmes and viruses can often attach themselves or be deliberately attached to seemingly legitimate files. These viruses and files, unbeknownst to the user, will then go on to cause serious corruptions to the PC's files and programmes. Viruses and corrupt files which operate in this way are referred to as Trojans.

TV Out

The TV out function allows a television to be attached to your computer to function as the monitor.

TV Tuner

A TV Tuner simply allows a television or PC to be tuned to receive free-to-air programming – analogue or digital – of any make and model.

U

Ultra Mobile

Ultra mobile is a term which refers to portable PCs and notebooks which weigh less than 2kg.

Upload

When files and information are transferred from a PC to a server on the Internet, for example a web page, image clips, the transfer of this data is referred to as an upload.

URL

URL – Uniform Resource Locator – is the unique address given to each page of information or resource available on the Internet. The Dns-direct website's home URL is <http://www.dns-direct.co.uk>

USB Connections

USB is the standard technology for connecting devices in order that they can exchange data. Printers, digital cameras, scanners all typically connect via USB cables. Most modern PCs provide between two and six USB ports to plug peripherals. More USB ports can be provided by using hubs.

USB2

USB2 is the latest version of USB. It allows a faster connection and transfer rate

USB Networking Adapter

USB Networking adapters allow PCs and Notebooks to connect to a network via a USB cable.

V

View Finder

A view finder is a device on a camera which the user can peer through to see the composition of how the picture will be taken and make any necessary adjustments to the scene or the positioning of the camera. View finders have been replaced to a great extent by built-in LCD screens on digital cameras.

Virtual Memory

Virtual Memory is simulated or temporary memory. When the computer's RAM memory is full then the PC or notebook juggles data so that it can function as if there was memory space still available.

Voice Guidance

On the majority of GPS/Sat Nav systems the directions the user should be following will be 'spoken' to the user instead of the user having to read the direction from a screen.

W

Wall Mountable

Wall mountable, quite simply means Plasma, or LCD television, can be mounted to a wall, due to the slim line nature of televisions. The brackets that allow the televisions to be mounted in a similar way to pictures on walls are generally sold separately.

WAP

WAP, Wireless Application Protocol, technology allows handheld devices such as mobile phones to access and retrieve compatible information from the Internet.

WAV File

WAV – waveform – is a format by which audio files are stored and transferred, developed by Microsoft and IBM.

Webcam

Webcam's are small video cameras attached to PCs, which allow video footage to be recorded or transferred live to the Internet.

WEP Encryption/ Encryption

The process of encryption is the scrambling of data and information in an attempt to secure it. This is achieved by a sender and receiver has the ability to unscramble, or unlock, the data.

Widescreen

Widescreen is a format of image presentation on monitors. The aspect of the image ratio is wider than standard presentation of an image in widescreen format may be because the monitor's physical aspect ratio is a widescreen format or built-in aspect ratio settings.

Wi-Fi Wireless Networking

Many laptops include a built-in antenna for wireless networking (802.11 or Wi-Fi). If your laptop doesn't have wireless networking then you can simply add a wireless PC Card to enable Wi-Fi networking. This Wi-Fi ability allows the user to connect to the Internet when in proximity to an access point – commonly known as Wi-Fi hotspots. Increasingly public spaces now allow Wi-Fi access – ranging from cafes, restaurants and hotels to larger areas such as Norwich City Centre.

Wireless Connectivity

Wireless connectivity is the ability for a PC or notebook to connect to the Internet or a network for example without a physical wire connection.

Wireless Notebook Card

Wireless notebook card is a card shape device which slots into a Cardbus slot and allows the computer to connect to a network quickly and easily.

WMA

WMA – Windows Media Audio – is a file format for audio compression similar to MP3 but pioneered and controlled by Microsoft.

802.11

This is a wireless networking standard. There are many networking standards and they are differentiated with a common name. The most common are 802.11b and 802.11g - which is the faster of the two.