

COMPUTERS MADE EASY

SIMPLE GUIDES TO GET THE BEST FROM YOUR COMPUTER

Peripherals

In other articles, I have discussed Hardware and Software, what they are and what they do. Here, I'll discuss Peripherals.

Peripherals are, simply, other devices that connect with your computer. Printers, scanners, networking equipment, portable hard drives, gaming joysticks and memory sticks are all Peripherals. Digital Cameras and Camcorders could also be classed as peripherals.

Printers simply convert a digital document or photograph into paper copy. Many are also capable of scanning paper documents, sending them to the computer, where they are saved in a digital format.

Networking equipment includes USB wireless adapters, routers, hubs and modems. These allow you to connect to the Internet.

Portable Hard Drives are simply a convenient way to extend your computers storage ability, and also move files between computers. USB Memory sticks are much smaller devices which perform the same function.

The vast majority of peripherals these days connect to the computer via a USB lead. This is a rather flat, small rectangular connector, and most computers have several. The benefit of USB is that devices can usually be disconnected and connected whilst the computer is running, although memory sticks and portable Hard Drives should be "Ejected" first.

Webcams and digital cameras and camcorders also usually connect via USB, and this is to send the photos or video on the camera to the computer for editing, storage, or to be written to CD or for printing.

There are many other peripherals, and more seem to be coming out all the time.

See also: Hardware

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