

Lifelong Learning Program – Spring 2013

Cloud Storage and Secure Backup of Computer Information

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Glossary

CPU = Microprocessor that runs the computer by executing instructions from the keyboard, mouse or a program

RAM = random access memory (silicon chips) that hold information the CPU needs to run and the working memory, just like yours, holding the current activities. Contents are lost when the power is off or the computer is shut down.

Hard Drive = mechanical device for storing information. Information is non-volatile

Flash Drive = solid state silicon device for storing information; non-volatile. Connects by USB to devices (**USB** is a connection protocol for transmission of data).

Modem = device that encodes and decodes the information that is sent and received by the computer over a network that connects you to the rest of the world; The Internet

Program = Set of instructions that cause the CPU to do something, an **app** (application)

Operating System = the master program that runs the computer or device e.g. Windows (Microsoft), iOS (Apple), Android (Google), Linux (various)

Network = the interconnection of everybody and everything through a system of wires (Ethernet), fiber optic cables or wireless radio communications (Wi-Fi).

The Internet = the global network of networks that connects almost everything.

Units of storage

Bit = a digital electronic zero or one

Byte = one character, a number or letter or punctuation mark, made up of 7 or 8 bits

Kilobyte (KB) = 1000 bytes (Twitter – 140 bytes, typical Word document = 30-100 KB)

Megabyte (MB) = 1,000 KB (typical picture is 1-8 MB) = 1,000,000 Bytes

Gigabyte (GB) = 1000 MB (movie = 4-5 GB) = 1,000,000,000 Bytes

Terabyte (TB) = 1000 GB = 1,000,000,000,000 Bytes

Petabyte (PT) = 1000 TB = 1,000,000,000,000,000 Bytes

Exabyte (EB) = 1000 PT = 1,000,000,000,000,000,000 Bytes

Typical computer has 20 - 50 GB exclusive of movies.

The Cloud = the global collection of information storage and computing facilities connected by The Internet. Some parts of which can be rented by users for storing information or employing computing power.