Commonly used Computer Terms and Concepts

ASCII - American Standard Code for Information Interchange .The form in which text characters are handled in most computer systems and networks. In an ASCII file, each alphabetic, numeric, or special character is represented with a 7-bit binary number which is a string of seven 0s or 1s.

BIOS - BIOS stands for basic input/output system and it is a low level program used by your system to interface to computer devices such as your keyboard, mouse, hard drive etc. In other words BIOS is the program a personal computer's microprocessor uses to get the computer system started after you turn it on

Booting - Turning on the computer.

Browser - A software tool used to read electronic documents. Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the most popular browsers.

CPU - Central processing unit; the brain of the computer; controls the other elements of the compute

Directory – Directory is also called as "folder". A directory is a collection of files and can generally contain other directories.

Folder - A graphical representation used to organize a collection of computer files. It is similar to filing cabinet (computer hard drive) with files (folders).

GUI - Graphical user interface; uses pictures and words to represent ideas, choices, functions, etc.

Hardware - Term used for physical parts of a computer system. Hardware includes monitor, keyboard, mouse, the main chassis which houses the RAM, CPU and the motherboard.

Machine Language - Machine language or machine code is the native language directly understood by the CPU.

Notebook - A notebook is a small laptop with similar price and performance.

Mouse - A peripheral device used to point to items on a monitor. Mouse controls the movement of the cursor or pointer on a display screen.

Worm - A term used to describe an unwanted program that uses system or application vulnerabilities to infect a computer without the user doing anything but connecting to an infected network.

URL - Uniform Resource Locator is the term used to describe a link which points to a location of a file on the internet.

Scanner - An input device that can read text or graphic printed on paper and translates the information into a form that computer understand and use.

RAM - Random access memory; the type of storage that changes; when the computer is turned off, the RAM memory is erased

Application Layer – This is the 7th Layer of the OSI reference model. Application Layer serves as a means by which applications access communications services.

Assembly Level Language - Assembly Level Language is a set of codes that can run directly on the computer's processor. Assembly language is most suitable in writing operating systems and maintaining desktop applications.

Bit - A binary unit of data storage that can only be a value of 0 or 1.

Boot - A term used to describe what happens to a computer when it is turned on, the operating system begins to run, and then the user is able to use the computer successfully.

Byte - 8 bits of data which has a possible value from 0 to 255.

Database – It is a large structured set of data , a file that contains numerous records that contain numerous fields.

Driver - A program which understands the operation of the device it interfaces to like printer, sound card or CD drive. It provides an interface for the operating system to use the device.

Format - The manner in which data is stored. Information can be stored in different formats, and can represent text, sounds, graphics etc.

Input Unit - The unit is used for entering data and programs into the computer system by the user for processing.

High Level Language - High Level Languages is user friendly language which is similar to English with vocabulary of words and symbols. These are easier to learn and write.

Monitor - A device used to display information visually

Operating System - The Software portion of a computer providing the ability to interface to peripheral and external devices along with program functions to support application programs. Every computer needs a set of programs called the operating system to run the system and make all the other programs work

Printer - A peripheral device that converts output from a computer into a printed image

Window - A screen in a software program that permits the user to view several programs at a time.

Protocols - A standard method used for communications or other internet and network functions.

Storage Unit - The storage unit is used for storing data and instructions before and after processing.

ROM - Read-only memory; the type of storage that is not changed even when the computer is turned off