

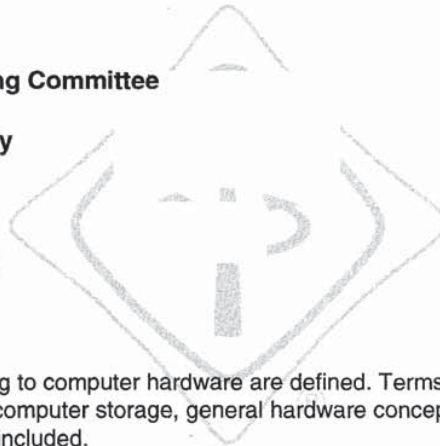
# IEEE Standard Glossary of Computer Hardware Terminology

Sponsor

**Standards Coordinating Committee  
of the  
IEEE Computer Society**

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**Abstract:** Terms pertaining to computer hardware are defined. Terms falling under the categories of computer architecture, computer storage, general hardware concepts, peripherals, and processors and components are included.

**Keywords:** computer, hardware, definition, glossary, terminology

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## Introduction

(This introduction is not a part of IEEE Std 610.10-1994, IEEE Standard Glossary of Computer Hardware Terminology.)

As the computer field continues to expand, new terms are being generated and new meanings are being adopted for existing terms. The IEEE Computer Dictionary project (the 610 computer glossary series of documents) was undertaken to document this vocabulary. Its purpose is to identify terms currently in use in the computer field and to establish standard definitions for these terms. The dictionary is intended to serve as a useful reference for those in the computer field and for those who come into contact with computers, either through their work or in their everyday lives.

The completed dictionary will contain terms from each of the following areas: Computer Hardware, Software Engineering, Mathematics of Computing, Theory of Computation, Computer Applications, Artificial Intelligence, Data Management, Image Processing and Pattern Recognition, Modeling and Simulation, Computer Graphics, Computer Networking, Computer Languages, and Computer Security and Privacy. This glossary contains the terms related to Computer Hardware.

Every effort has been made to use definitions from established standards in this dictionary. When existing standards were found to be incomplete, unclear, or inconsistent with other entries in the dictionary, however, new, revised, or composite definitions have been developed.

At the time this glossary was approved, the following people formed the steering committee of the Computer Dictionary working group:

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