Categories of Computers

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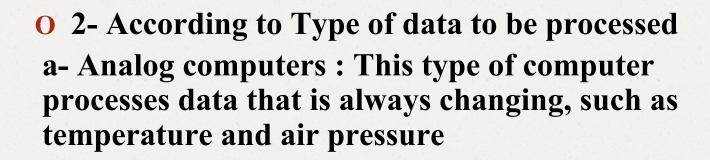
Computers are classified according to:

1- Purpose of use

2- Type of data to be processed

3- Size and performance

1- According to the purpose of use:

a- General purpose computer: This type of computer is used for general purposes, whether scientific, commercial or administrative, including banking systems and engineering designs etc.

b- Special purpose computers:

This type is used for one purpose only, for example, medical purposes, or early warning devices, etc

O **2- According to Type of data to be processed**

a- Analog computers : This type of computer processes data that is always changing, such as temperature and air pressure

b- Digital computers:This type uses variable information represented by numbers and is considered suitable for commercial and scientific uses and has flexibility in executing operations.

c-Hybrid computers:

It is a mixture of both digital and analog types. The computers contain analog inputs and the processing is digital. They have high accuracy and a great ability to store data.

4-According to size and performance

 a - Microcomputers:

It is the smallest type of computer for general purposes, such as administrative and scientific purposes, and it needs a microprocessor. This type is called personal computers(PC).

b – Minicomputer : This type appeared in the sixties. It was used for private purposes, then it developed and became flexible for public purposes, such as scientific and commercial purposes

c-mainframes

It has high costs and has a large capacity and is used in large companies.

d-supercomputers

They are large-sized, high-cost, super-computers, and have high computing power, such as the" Super" computers produced by the" CDC" Company in the USA Ministry of Defense in the field of secret weapons.