

Evaluation of computers:- Computers have become the basic necessity of any organization. They have made great role into everyone's day to day life. They are used for all sorts of problems ranging from simple addition to highly complex calculations in the field of research, engineering, weather forecasting etc.

① What is computer or definition of computer:- A computer is an electronic device that is used for information processing. It accepts the data and instructions, stores it in memory, processes and gives the results to the user.

Characteristics of computer:-

① High Speed:- A computer is fast information processing electronic device. It carries out all sorts of computations within a second. It executes millions of inst./second.

② Accuracy:- It gives accurate results for correct input data. If the input data is not correct, then the output will not be correct.

③ Reliability:- It gives consistent results, even though it is running on electrical connections and electronic circuits which are often prone to errors.

④ Versatility:- It is used for scientific calculations, business processing, computer games, teaching, music etc.

⑤ Diligence:- It doesn't feel tired. It can be used for a number of days or months non-stop.

Limitations of computer:-

① The major problem with computers is that they are M/C and can not think.

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1) Computers can not draw conclusion without going through all intermediate steps i.e. they don't have intuition.

2) computers can only do a job which can be expressed in a finite number of steps. Each step must be clearly defined. The computer is useless without a correct program.

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Generation of computer' — (1946-1959)
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 were large in size. The technology was based on vacuum tubes and therefore considerable amount of heat was produced.

(*) Such computers required large space and consume large amount of electrical power.

(*) These tubes like electric bulbs produced a lot of heat and prone to frequent fusing of the installation.

Drawbacks:-

- 1) Bulky in size and occupied a lot of space
- 2) Consumed too much power.
- 3) Non-portable.

Examples:-

- 1) ENIAC (Electronic numerical integrator and calculator)
- 2) EDVAC (Electronic discrete variable automatic computer).

2nd generation (1959-1965):- In 1959, the vacuum tubes were replaced by transistors. Therefore, physical size of the computers was greatly reduced.

Features:-

- (*) Transistor based technology.
- (*) Smaller in size as compared to 1st generation.
- (*) More reliable.