RISC(Reduced instruction set computer) is a microprocessor that is designed to perform a smaller number of types of computer instructions so that it can operate at higher speed (perform more millions of instructions per second, or MIPS). Since each instructions type that a computer must perform requires additional transistors and circuitry, a larger list or set of computer instructions tend to make the microprocessor more complicated and slowed in operation.

CISC(Complex Instruction Set Computing) is a type of microprocessor design. The CISC architecture contains a large set of computer instructions that range from very simple to very complex and specialized. Though the design was intended to compute complex instructions in the most efficient way, it was later found that many small, short instructions could compute complex instructions more efficiently. This led to a design called Reduced Instruction Set Computing (RISC).

VLIW(Very long Instruction Word) describes a computer processing architecture in which a language compiler or pre-processor breaks program instruction down into basic operations that can be performed by the processor in parallel. These operations are put into very long instruction word which the processor can then take apart without further analysis, handing each operation to an appropriate functional unit.