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DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INPUT AND OUTPUT DEVICES

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| **BASIS OF COMPARISON** | **INPUT DEVICE**  | **OUTPUT DEVICE** |
| **Description** | An input device is any hardware device which enables the user to enter data and instructions into a computer.   | An output device is any hardware component that use received data from a computer to perform a task.   |
| **Functionality** | An input device can send data to another device but it cannot receive data from another device.   | An output device can receive data from another device and generate output with that data, but it cannot send data to another device.   |
| **Necessity** | Input devices are necessary for a computer to receive commands from its users and data to process.   |

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| Output devices are necessary for a computer to share its results and prompt users for more information and commands.   |
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| **Control** | Input devices are controlled by the user.   | Output devices are controlled by the computer.   |
| **Nature** | Input devices are relatively complicated as they have complex coding that ensures that the user can interact with the computer correctly.   | Output devices are simpler for the user since they only see the results and do not have to learn the processes. |
| **Example** | keyboard and mouse, microphone, webcam, image scanner, Microphone, pointing device, touch screens, graphics table, Optical character reader (OCR), joystick etc.   | Printer, monitor, speakers, projector LCD projection panels, computer output microfilm, plotters, headphones, video cards etc. |