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What Is An Input Device?

**An input device** is essentially a piece of hardware component used to provide data and control signals to an information processing system such as computer or information device. Common inputs devices on modern computers include keyboards, mouse and touch screen which are used to enter commands and data directly. Other examples of input devices include scanners, digital cameras, joysticks, microphones, moouse, keyboard, touch pad, finger print reader, pen and barcode reader.

What Is An Output Device?

**An output device** is any hardware component that use received data from a computer to perform a task. The data received by the output device can be text, graphic, tactile, audio or video. Three most commonly used output devices are a printer, a monitor and speakers. A printer is used to generate a hard copy or graphics on a physical medium such as paper. Speakers are used for communicating with the user by voice or for playing music or the soundtrack to a movie whereas a monitor displays visual output such as text, graphics and videos on a screen. Other examples of output device include printer, monitor, speaker, headphone, projector LCD projection panels, computer output microfilm, plotters, GPS, sound card, video card.

Difference Between Input And Output Devices In Tabular Form

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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. | Output devices are necessary for a computer to share its results and prompt users for more information and commands. |
| **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. |