Hardware (H/W)

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Hardware (H/W) refers to the physical elements that make up a computer or electronic system and everything else involved that is physically tangible. This includes the monitor, computermemory and the Central Processing Unit (CPU). Hardware works hand-in-hand with Firmware and Software (SW) to make a computer function.

Although the same core components are shared between Desktop and Laptop computers, their characteristics and design differ for a multitude of reasons (size, heat dissipation capabilities, power requirements, etc.). However, hardware is always necessary to run the critical software that makes computers work.

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