

BASIC COMPUTER SCIENCE

Lecture 2

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**CATEGORIES
OF
COMPUTER.**

MINICOMPUTER

computer that was smaller, less expensive, and less powerful than a mainframe or supercomputer but more expensive and more powerful than a personal computer.



MINICOMPUTER

- **Minicomputers were used for scientific and engineering computations, business transaction processing, file handling, and database management. Minicomputers as a distinct class of computers emerged in the late 1950 and reached their peak in the 1960 and '70s before declining in popularity in the 1980 and '90s. Their niche was filled by more powerful personal computers, workstations, and small or midsize servers.**



MAINFRAME

is a type of computer that generally are known for their large size, amount of storage, processing power and high level of reliability. They are primarily used by large organizations for mission-critical applications requiring high volumes of data processing. In general, there are a few characteristics of mainframes that are common among all mainframe vendors:

A photograph of a mainframe computer system in a dark room. The system consists of several large, light-colored metal cabinets with various panels, buttons, and switches. The word 'MAINFRAME' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the upper center of the image. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the computer hardware.

MAINFRAME

Nearly all mainframes have the ability to run (or host) multiple operating systems. Mainframes can add or hot swap system capacity without disruption. Mainframes are designed to handle very high volume input and output (I/O) and emphasize throughput computing. A single mainframe can replace dozens or even hundreds of smaller servers.



PERSONAL COMPUTER

(PC) a digital computer designed for use by only one person at a time. A typical personal computer assemblage consists of a central processing unit (CPU),

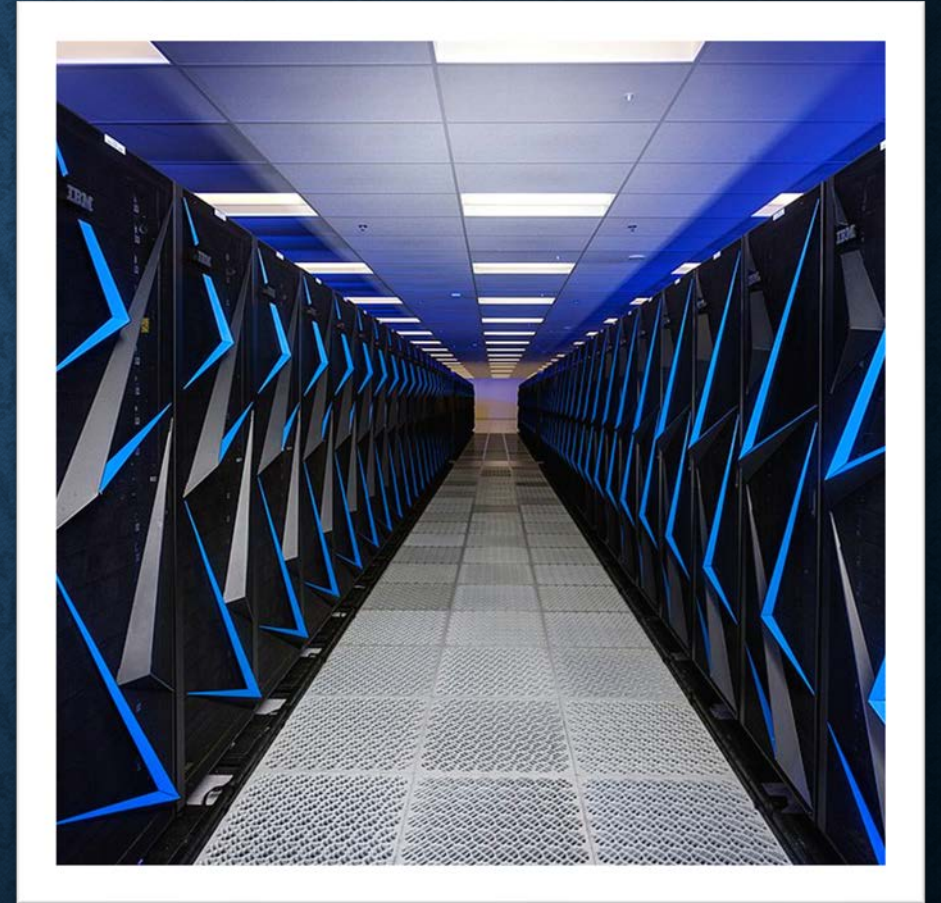
PERSONAL COMPUTER

which contains the two types of computer memory, main memory, such as digital random-access memory (RAM), and auxiliary memory, such as magnetic hard disks and special optical compact discs, or read-only memory (ROM) discs (CD-ROMs and DVD-ROMs); and various peripheral devices, including a display screen, keyboard and mouse, and printer



SUPERCOMPUTER

any of a class of extremely powerful computers. The term is commonly applied to the fastest high-performance systems available at any given time. Such computers have been used primarily for scientific and engineering work requiring exceedingly high-speed computations





SUPERCOMPUTER

Common applications for supercomputers include testing mathematical models for complex physical phenomena or designs, such as climate and weather, evolution of the cosmos, nuclear weapons and reactors, new chemical compounds (especially for pharmaceutical purposes), and cryptology. As the cost of supercomputing declined in the 1990s, more businesses began to use supercomputers for market research and other business-related models.