Types of Storage

The Storage Devices can be Internal, that is located inside the Systems Unit or they can be External, that is located outside the case.

Internal Storage

The system unit contains a storage area where the data is stored before being actually processed. This storage area is called as the Internal storage. Internal storage is also known as the Primary Storage or the Main Storage.

Internal Storage is usually referred to as RAM (Random Access Memory), because it is possible to randomly select and use any location of the memory to directly store and retrieve data and instructions.

The storage capacity of a system is measured in bytes.

External Storage

The internal storage capacity of a PC is limited so it restricts on how much data can be stored at a time for processing. If the system is switched off or in case of power failure, all the data stored in the Internal storage is lost. Therefore for permanent storage of data, **External Storage** media can be used. The external storage system is also known as the Secondary Storage.

The Secondary storage is a non-volatile memory, which is external to a computer. It is a secondary media used for storing volumes of data permanently or long term. Apart from storing data permanently the secondary storage devices are capable of storing volumes of data and instructions, the capacity of this secondary media in storage is far more than Primary Storage but the speed of accessing is slower than primary storage.

Some of the External Storage Devices include:- Hard Disk, Floppy Disk, CD-ROM, Tape Drive, Zip Drive etc.
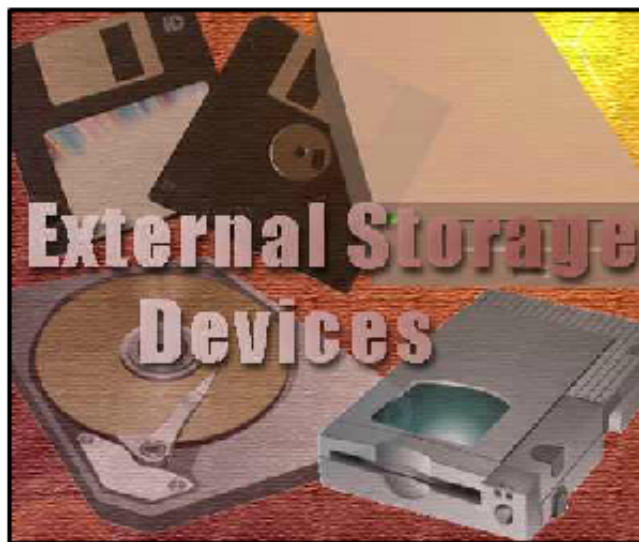
The main features of the Secondary Storage Devices include:-

Non-Volatile Storage

The data stored on the secondary storage devices are not lost in case of Power Failure. The data is retained, which makes these devices more acceptable and useful.

Computing Capability

These devices are not capable to to handle any arithmetic and logic operations and neither execute programs. These are just Storage devices.

Voluminous Storage

These storage devices are capable of storing volumes of data and instructions, hence, it makes them very useful in almost every field where data is bulky.

Portable

These devices act as portable media for transferring data from one system to other. The access to the data stored can be in a serial order or random depending upon the type of secondary storage used.