Use this documentation to become more familiar with all the different computer terms in the computer world these days.

COMPUTER TYPES:

PC's: Starting back with IBM's personal computer.   Nowadays, a variety of companies make PC's (Dell, HP, Sony, etc…)

Macs: Apple's brand of personal computer.

Desktop Computers: Typically consisting of a "tower" unit, a monitor, keyboard and mouse.   Both PC and Macs come in a Desktop style

Laptop Computers: A smaller, all in one computer.   Much more portable but typically (not always) more expensive than desktop computers.

Tablets: A powerful "mini" computer capable of internet access and streaming features as well as many other programs.   iPads and Kindles are just one of many varieties of tablets.

Smartphones: Mobile phones that are Internet-ready/capable.   iPhones and Androids are the 2 main operating systems (or types) of smartphones.
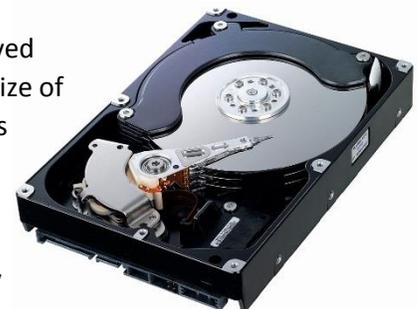
COMPUTER HARDWARE TERMS:

Computer Tower: This is the big "box" or "tower" that most people recognize as their "computer." It is where all the components for your computer are stored.

Keyboard: A device that allows you to type and create documents on your computer.

Mouse: A device that allows you to navigate the different windows and applications on your computer.

Monitor: Most people call this their computer "screen."   It is the device that allows you SEE the different programs, windows, and documents on your computer.

Hard Drive: This is the device inside your computer that stores all the saved documents you have created.   A typical hard drive is about the physical size of a box of greeting cards, but it can store hundreds of millions of documents (photos, emails, letters, videos, etc…).

Thumb Drive: A portable "thumb-sized" hard drive that allows you to carry and transport documents with you.   Thumb drives come in a variety of hard drive capacities and are very affordable.

SOFTWARE EXAMPLES:

Software typically refers to written code installed on the hard drive of your computer that allows you perform a variety of tasks, from word processing, to Internet browsing, to playing games.

Some examples of software include:

Microsoft Office: This "Office Suite" product is a bundle of software applications that allow users to created word processing documents, spreadsheets, and Email, to name a few.

Web browsers: Web browsers allow the user to access the vast amount of information out on the Internet.   Popular web browser applications include: Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc…

MOUSE COMPONENTS

Most computer mouse devices are comprised of 3 main parts:

Left-click: This is the left side of the mouse that you use to highlight or select objects on your computer.
Right-click: This is the right-side of the mouse that you use when you want to access a list of object-specific commands.
Scroll Wheel: Located in the middle of your mouse, this wheel allows you to scroll through and navigate your document or the website you are viewing.

Scroll Wheel

Left-Click

Right-Click