A General Purpose Computer System

Major Functions of Systems
The four Main Functions of a Computer System

- There are four main functions of a computer system:
  - Input
  - Processing
  - Output
  - Storage
Computer Processing

- **Input**: the transferring of data into a computer system.
- **Processing**: the manipulation and control of data within the computer system. This is handled by the Control Unit and the Arithmetic Logic Unit.
- **Storage**: means by which information can be stored for later retrieval.
- **Output**: the displaying of information. E.g. On monitor or printed paper.
Data

- Data is the raw facts and figures that are meaningless and have no structure until they are processed.
Information

- When data is processed it provides information
- Information is processed data that now has a meaning and structure attached to it
- The information that may be obtained from the data depends on how the data is interpreted and the context.
The computer system consists of:
- Hardware
- Software
Hardware

- Hardware is all the physical components that are connected to the computer system.
- These components are the ones you can see and touch.
- Peripheral devices refer to those hardware components that are outside the system unit.
- These include devices such as keyboard, mouse, scanner, hard drive, floppy drive, printers, monitors
Software

- Software consists of data and instructions that instruct the computer on how the hardware should function.
- Software refers to those programs that allow the hardware to do a useful job.
- There are two types of software:
  - System software e.g. Windows 98, 2000, XP, VISTA
  - Application software e.g. Microsoft Word, Excel, AUTOCADE, QuickBooks