

Data Storage



Data Storage

Key Concepts:

Access Time: How long it takes to retrieve data from a drive. Access is made up of *seek time* (the time it takes the head to stabilize) and *latency* (how long it takes the required sector to rotate under the head) All are measured in milliseconds.



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Key Concepts:

Cluster: It is the smallest unit in which data is stored on a drive.



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Key Concepts:

Compression: A process to remove redundant data so that a file is smaller.



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Key Concepts:

Cookie: The mylar disk to which data is written in a floppy.



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Key Concepts:

Data Transfer Rate: The number of bytes or megabytes transferred from a drive to memory in a second.



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Key Concepts:

Directory: A set of related files, also a *folder* in windows.



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Key Concepts:

Drive: Any device used for storing computer files.



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Key Concepts:

Drive Array: Two or more drives link to improve retrieval time and provide error correction.



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Key Concepts:

Format: A process by which a disk is divided into tracks and sectors so that files can be stored and found in an orderly fashion.



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Key Concepts:

Fragmentation: The process by which files get broken up into widely spread clusters.



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Key Concepts:

Laser: Light Amplification by Stimulation Emission of Radiation, a device that produces a narrow, coherent beam of light. Coherent means all the waves are in the same direction.



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Key Concepts:

Optical Storage: Drives that use lasers to store and read data.



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Key Concepts:

Platter: A rigid metal disk on which data is stored in a hard drive.



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Key Concepts:

Read/Write Head: The drive component that writes data to a drive and reads it from a drive.



References

How Computer Work: Millenium Edition

by: Ron White, 1999 QUE

