

Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them

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Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them

External Storage Drives

Ram

- Internal storage for PC's and Laptops
- Holds programs and data while being used
- Lost when power is turned off if not saved to disk
- Very fast, very expensive, limited space

Hard Drives

- Internal storage for PC's and Laptops
- Holds programs and data while not being used
- Retains data when power is turned off
- Fast, expensive, unlimited space (avg 400 gb)
- Mechanical



Inside of hard drive

Floppy Disk Drives

- Internal drives, external disks
- Holds programs and data while not being used
- Retains data when power is turned off
- Slow, cheap, limited space (2 mb)
- Mechanical
- Used for software installs, backing up data from hard drives, and transferring data from one computer to another.
- No longer used

CD/DVD Drives / Disks

- Medium speed, cheap more space 700 mb / 4.7 gb
- Mechanical
- May be read only or read many / write once

Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them

- Used for software installs, resource data, backing up data from hard drives, and transferring data from one computer to another. Used for music and movies.
- **Used in Genealogy** for genealogy software installs, genealogical resource data, backing up from a PC/Laptop's hard drive your genealogy software files, your genealogy source files like birth certificates and your pictures; transferring your genealogy files from one computer to another; and publishing your finish Genealogy.
- Can also get external version. Connects via a USB cable. Requires external power.

External Hard Drives

- Connects via a USB cable.
- Requires external power.
- Mechanical
- Has all the advantages of Internal hard drive except not quite as fast.
- Fast, expensive, unlimited space (avg 400 gb)
- Used for backing up data from hard drives, transferring data from one computer to another, and for additional hard drive space
- **Used in Genealogy** for backing up your PC/Laptop's hard drive your genealogy files, your genealogy source files like birth certificates and your pictures; transferring your genealogy files from one computer to another; and for additional hard drive space for addition genealogy files.



External Hard Drive

Thumb Drive / Memory Stick / Flash Drive

- Solid State Drive (SSD)
- Contrary to the name there is no drive
- Connects via a USB cable

Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them

- Not Mechanical
- Not affected by magnets
- Does not generate heat
- Uses less energy (longer battery life)
- Fast, Expensive, 8 gb for \$20. Up to 400 gb
- Small.
- No fragmentation means faster.
- Used for backing up data from hard drives and transferring data from one computer to another
- **Used in Genealogy** for backing up from your PC/Laptop's hard drive your genealogy software files, your genealogy source files like birth certificates, and your pictures; and transferring your genealogy files from one computer to another. The transferring can be from your computer to another or from someone else's computer to yours.



Several types of Thumb drives

Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them

MP3/MP4 Players / iPOD

- Combines a portable CD player and Thumb drive for portable music
- 4 versions of iPOD: Shuffle, Nano, Classic, Touch
- Some have flash drive other have hard disks.
- Connects to PC via USB cable for downloading music or for listening
- Originally requires head phones/ ear buds for listening
- Can now be connected to
 - an external speaker.
 - to radios in newer cars.
 - to radio transmitters in older cars.
 - to night stand radio alarm clocks.
- Up to 160 gb
- Non iPOD MP3 Players include Microsoft Zume, SanDisk, GPX,
- Has an operator system like a PC that can be rebooted. Does not automatically reboots when turned off and on. To reboot an iPOD, toggle the Hold switch on and off and then press and hold the Menu and Select buttons until the Apple logo appears, about 6 to 10 seconds.
- Now plays video, plays games, takes pictures , access Internet, radio, clock, calendar, display text files, contacts,
- Can also be used for backing up data from hard drives and transferring data from one computer to another
- **Used in Genealogy** for backing up from your PC/Laptop's hard drive your genealogy software files, your genealogy source files like birth certificates and your pictures; transferring your genealogy files from one computer to another. The transferring can be from your computer to another or from someone else's computer to yours. Also for listening /watching pod casts dealing with subjects on genealogy.



Early MP3 player with ear buds

Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them



Current IPOD versions



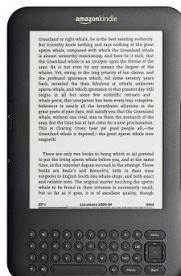
IPOD with external speaker

Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them

eReader / Kindle / Nook

- Portable electronic books/magazines readers
- Tablets are more versatile but can also be used to read electronic books. eReaders have more readable screens and longer battery life.
- Electronic books can now be read on some versions of IPODs and smart phones.
- Popular Vendors/Models
 - Amazon: Kindle, Kindle Paperwhite
 - Barnes & Noble: Nook 1st Edition, Nook Simple Touch
 - Ectaco: jetBook, jetBook Color
 - Kobo: Kobo Glo, Kobo Touch, Kobo Mini, Kobo Arc
 - Sony Reader
 - PocketBook
- More popular with older readers
- Some have Wi-Fi for connecting to Internet for downloading books.
- All can connect to computers for downloading books.
- Some have touch screens. Some have text to speech capability. Some have web browser.
- Not all eReaders can read all file formats. Kindle has its own file format.
- Electronic books does not take up space like hardcover and paperbacks.
- Electronic books are a few dollars cheaper hard copies. Old classics are usually free.
- An eReader can hold 1000's of books
- Books can be kept in the cloud.
- Used in Genealogy for reading books about genealogy and genealogy source material IE – “Genealogy: The Path To Your Ancestors” or “The History of Madison County” or “Genealogy of the Lewis family in America”.



Amazon Kindle

Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them

Notebooks / Netbooks / Ultrabooks

- A smaller, lighter, more portable laptop
- Usually cheaper than a full-size laptop, but has fewer features and less computing power.
- Smaller keyboards of a notebook can be more difficult to operate.
- There is no sharp line of demarcation between notebooks and inexpensive small laptops
- May contain internal hard drive or may contain SSD (solid state drive) storage instead.
- Primarily used for web browsing, e-mailing, and rely heavily on web-based applications
- **Used in Genealogy** for taking on genealogy research trips. There are Apps for genealogy.



MacBook Air



Samsung Chromebook

Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them

Tablets / iPAD / Kindle Fire / Nook HD / Windows

- Has a touchscreen with finger gestures acting as the primary means of control.
- Gestures
 - Tapping or Touching for selecting
 - Double Tapping for zooming
 - Pinching for zooming
 - Dragging for moving screen contents
 - Flicking for scrolling
 - Four finger pinching for taking you out of an app and back to home screen
 - Four finger swiping for switching between running apps
- Has virtual keyboard on screen for when typing is needed.
- No mouse or keyboard though optional keyboard may be connected.
- Contains no hard drive. Flash SSD (solid state drive) memory. 16, 32, or 64 gb
- Much simpler than a Computer. No folders. Files and Apps are tied together.
- No booting up. No starting and stopping of Apps.
- Software programs are called Apps. Short for application.
- Apps are tied to the type of device. iPAD Apps won't work on Kindle and vice- versa. Kindle and Nook uses Android operating system which is owned by Google. It is based on Linux. Some tablets use a Windows operating system and their Apps are not compatible with iPAD nor Android systems.
- Apps are usually downloaded from the internet. Some are free other need to be bought.
- Used mainly for viewing web contents such as video and news. Accessing email.
- Web sites provide Apps to format the screen contents for tablet.
- Other types of Apps includes
 - Games
 - Reading electronic books/magazines
 - Playing music
 - As a camera
 - Clock/Alarms
 - Calendar
 - Simple note taking and spreadsheets
 - Contacts
 - Fitness tracking
 - Watching TV / movies
- Can be connected to a PC for transferring files.
- Utilizes cloud for data storage.
- Normally an optional cover or case is purchase.
- **Used in Genealogy** for taking on genealogy research trips. There are Apps for genealogy.

Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them

Smart Phones / iPhone / Blackberry / Android / Windows

- Smart phones are basically the same as tablet but small enough to be handle in 1 hand, fit into a pocket or pocketbook.
- Primary used for make phone calls but most Apps that runs on a table will work on a smart phone.
- Some Apps are a better fit for phones and some for tablets. You can watch a movie on a phone but would you really want to.
- Smart phones makes a great camera.
- With some phone plans you have to watch the data charges.
- **Used in Genealogy** for taking on genealogy research trips. There are Apps for genealogy. Easily used like a digital camera or a GPS device.



iPhone / iPad

Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them

Bluetooth

- A wireless technology standard for exchanging data over short distances
- Because the devices use radio waves, they do not have to be in visual line of sight of each other
- Used for when a small amount of data needs to be transferred and speed is not important. Wi-Fi is used for large amounts of data and when speed is important
- Named for ancient Nordic king who united dissonant tribes in a single kingdom.
- One of the earliest and most popular uses is between a cell phone and hand free headset.
- Other uses include
 - PC and input/output devices like keyboard, mouse, or printer.
 - Medical Devices
 - Bar code scanners
 - Allowing a land line phone to ring and answer calls on behalf of a nearby cell phone
 - Game consoles like Nintendo's Wii and Sony's PlayStation 3 and their controllers.
- **No specific uses for Genealogy**



A Bluetooth cell phone headset

Tech Gadgets

What they are and how to use them

Other Gadgets

Digital Camera

- **Used in Genealogy** for taking pictures of genealogy source files like birth certificates that cannot be copied and taking pictures of family members or gravestones that can be uploaded into files on a PC/Laptop

Scanner

- **Used in Genealogy** for scanning genealogy source files like birth certificates and family pictures into files on a PC/Laptop

GPS

- Global Positioning Systems is a satellite based navigational system that provides location and time information anywhere on earth
- Most smart phones have built in GPS systems
- **Used in Genealogy** for recording pinpoint location of cemetery and graves.