Laptop

A laptop computer or simply laptop, also also called a notebook computer, is a small personal computer designed for portability. Usually all of the interface hardware needed to operate the laptop, such as **USB ports** (previously parallel and serial ports), graphics card, sound channel, etc., are built into a single unit. Laptops contain high capacity batteries that can power the device for extensive periods of time, enhancing portability. Once the battery charge is depleted, it will have to be recharged through a power outlet. In the interest of saving power, weight and space, they usually share RAM with the video channel, slowing their performance compared to an equivalent desktop machine. For this reason, Desktop or Gaming computers are generally prefered to laptop PCs for gaming purposes.

One main drawback of the laptop is sometimes, due to the size and configuration of components, relatively little can be done to upgrade the overall computer from its original design. Internal upgrades are either not manufacturer recommended, can damage the laptop if done with poor care or knowledge, or in some cases impossible, making the desktop PC more modular. Some internal upgrades, such as memory and hard disks upgrades are often easy, a display or keyboard upgrade is usually impossible. The laptop has the same access as the desktop to the wide variety of devices, such as external displays, mice, cameras, storage devices and keyboards, which may be atached externally through USB ports and other less common ports such as external video.

A subtype of notebooks, called [subnotebooks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subnotebook), are computers with most of the features of a standard laptop computer but smaller. They are larger than [hand-held computers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hand-held_computer), and usually run full versions of desktop/laptop operating systems. [Ultra-Mobile PCs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ultra-Mobile_PC) (UMPC) are usually considered subnotebooks, or more specifically, subnotebook [Tablet PCs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tablet_computer) (see below). [Netbooks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netbook) are sometimes considered in this category, though they are sometimes separated in a category of their own (see below).