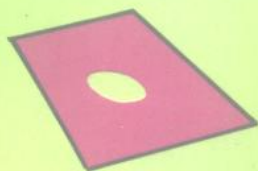


计算机英语教程

熊天信 陈 梦 张 璟 编著



电子科技大学出版社

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UNIT 1

THE PROGRESS OF COMPUTER

1-1 What Is a Computer?

A computer is a tool for accomplishing the data processing functions of input, processing output, and storage. The computer exists and has proliferated because it processes data and delivers information in large volumes, efficiently, and at relatively low costs. Further, the computer exists because it has introduced the capacity and capability to perform data processing jobs that would have been impossible through other means.^[1]

In general, a device can be classified as a computer if it does certain things:^[2]

- A computer performs arithmetic operations on data, including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- A computer performs logical operations. It can compare data items to determine whether they are equal or unequal, small or larger than each other.
- A computer can be programmed. That is, it can be provided with a set of instructions—a program—that process data without human intervention.
- A computer can store programs internally, rather than re-

lying on wired panels or other external methods.

All computers, regardless of size, regardless of cost, and regardless of the uses to which they are put, have these basic characteristics. In addition, to support the data processing functions, computers must have additional features.

Basically, a computer used for data processing must be provided with two ingredients: programs and data. Programs are prepared by people. They are instructions giving the sequence of input, arithmetic, logic, output, and storage operations that the computer must carry out to complete a data processing job. A program is prepared and entered into the computer. Then, control is turned over to the computer, which, executes, or carries out, the instructions in the program. Under program control, the computer processes the data without, human intervention.

A computer is the most important hard ware resource of a large or complex data processing system. It is capable, given the proper instructions, of automating most of the data processing functions.^[3] However, a computer is still only one of five basic resources of a data processing system. It must be integrated with software, data, people, and support resources to create a compute-based information system.

NEW WORDS

- process ['proises] n. 过程, 程序
vt. 对...加工
storage ['sto:ridʒ] n. 储藏, 存储

proliferate [prou'li:fəreit] vi. & vt. 增生, 增加, 大量产生

deliver [de'livə] vt. 递送, 传送, 发表

vi. 分娩

classify ['klu:sifai] vt. 分类

arithmetic [ə'riθmətik] n. 算术

adj. 算术的

intervention [intə'venʃən] n. 仲裁, 调停, 干涉

ingredient [in'gri:djənt] n. 成分

perform [pə'fɔ:m] vt. & vi. 做, 行, 执行, 表演

execute ['eksikju:t] vt. 实现, 完成, 执行

hardware ['hɑ:dwɛə] n. 硬件

software ['sɒftwɛə] n. 软件

PHRASES AND EXPRESSIONS

in general a set of 总之, 一般, 一般说来

a set of 一套, 一副, 一组

rely on 依靠

regardless of 不管, 不顾

in addition 此外, 加之, 并且

carry out 贯彻, 实现, 执行, 落实

turn over 滚动, 移交, 托付, 翻过来

classify as 把...归类为

provide with 供给, 供应, 以...装备

NOTES

[1] Further, the computer... through other means.

1) because 引导的原因状语从句.

2) that 引导的定语从句, 修饰 jobs.

译文: 此外, 计算机的生存是因为它能提供做数据处理工作的能力和容量, 而这些工作是通过其他方法不能办到的.

[2] In general, a device ... things.

if 引导条件状语从句.

译文: 一般来说, 如果它能做下面某种事情的话, 这个设备就可叫计算机.

[3] It is capable, ... processing functions. given the proper instructions 是插入语.

译文: 给出正确的指令, 计算机就能自动地执行大多数数据处理任务.

Exercises

I. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Why does the computer exist?
- 2) What the basic characteristics have the computer?
- 3) What is the most important hardware resource of a large of complex data processing system?
- 4) What arithmetic operations does a computer perform?
- 5) Can a computer perform logical operation?

I. Translate the following into Chinese

Electronic Mail

Electronic Mail, already used by many businesses in addition to regular mail, may some day replace regular mail.

Electronic mail is messages sent at high speeds using

telecommunication facilities. One user of the service can send a message to another user by placing it in a special computer storage area, The receive can retrieve the message through a terminal by either displaying it or printing it. These two user need not be on line at the same time.