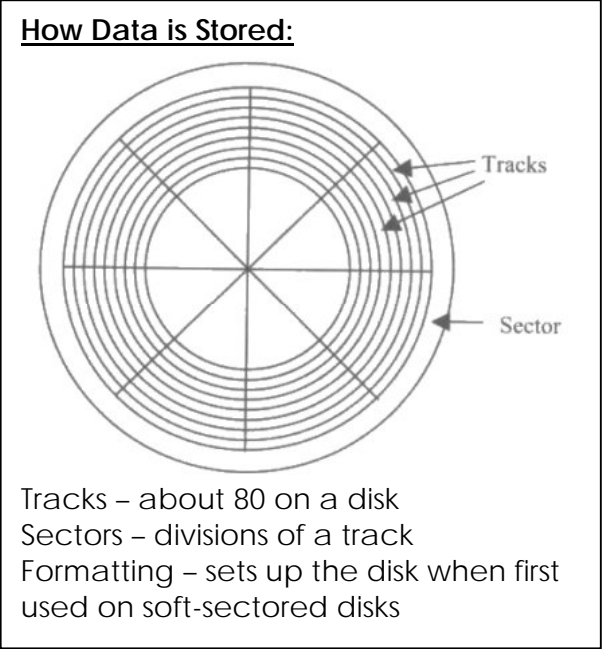


# ASICT M2 11.7 – Hardware: Nature, Capabilities and Limitations

**Hardware Classification:**  
 Input Devices  
 Processing Devices  
 Output Devices  
 Communication Devices  
 Storage Devices

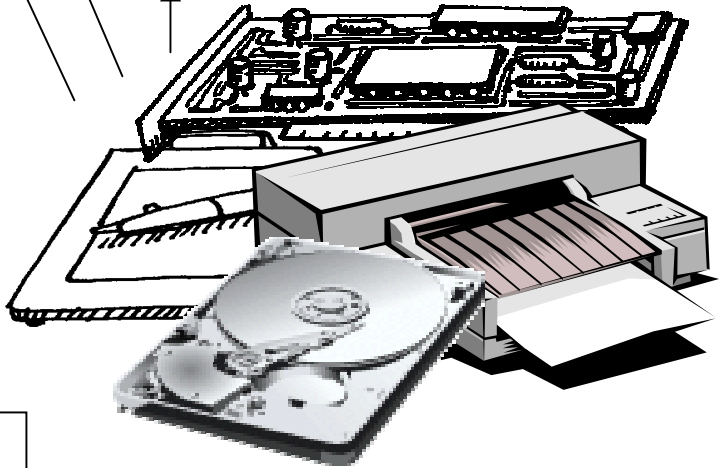
**In-Depth Device Study (Printers):**  
 Inkjet  
 Laser  
 Dot Matrix  
 Plotter



**Input Devices:**  
 Peripherals used to transfer data from the outside world into a computer system. Some input devices are operated directly by the user whereas others are sensors or transducers which convert external signals into data.

**Assistive Technology:**  
 Consider how computers may assist in situations where the user may be unable to utilise conventional methods of input and output.

**Processing Devices:**  
 Processing is carried out by the computer's CPU. Files are processed, and how they are accessed is important here. Files can be accessed **SEQUENTIALLY** or **RANDOMLY**, depending on the medium the files are stored on.



**File Processing:**  
 Sequential  
 Random

**Backup:**  
 Normal  
 Differential  
 Incremental  
 Daily  
 Archive

**Output Devices:**  
 Electronic or electromechanical equipment connected to a computer and used to transfer data out of the computer in the form of text, images, sounds or other media to a display screen, printer, loudspeaker or storage device. Most modern storage devices act as both input and output devices.

**Communication Devices:**  
 A system or facility capable of providing information transfer between persons and equipment. Examples are modem, web-cam and video conferencing equipment.

**Storage Devices:**  
 Primary storage is main memory (such as RAM). Secondary storage is any non-volatile storage medium that is not directly accessible to the computer processor.