

# CLASSIFICATION OF COMPUTERS

Computers can be broadly classified into four categories based on their speed, amount of data they can hold and price.

These are as follows.

# SUPER COMPUTERS

- It is most powerful and most expensive computer.
- Super computers were first developed in the 1980s to process large amount of data and to solve complex scientific problems.
- Super computers use parallel processing technology and can perform more than trillion (100 billion) calculations in a second.
- A single super computer can support thousands of users at same time.
- Such computers are mainly used for weather forecasting, nuclear energy research, aircraft design, online banking.
- Some examples of super computers are CRAY-1, ETAA-10.

# MAINFRAME COMPUTER

- A main frame computer can support 50,000 users at same time.
- Examples of Main frame computers are IBM S/390.
- Mainframe computers are typically used as servers on World Wide Web.
- They are also used in large organizations like bank, railway and airlines.

# MINI COMPUTERS

- These are slower than mainframes.
- These are widely used in business, education, hospitals and Govt. Organizations etc.
- Some mini computers can be used by single user while others are specially designed to handle multiple users simultaneously.
- Usually single user minicomputers are used for performing complex design task.
- Minicomputers can be used as servers in a networked environment. Examples of mini Computers are IBM AS/400.

# MICRO COMPUTERS

- These are commonly known as PCs are small computers and cheap.
- PCs use windows operating system.
- Apple computers use Macintosh OS.
- PCs can be desktop or Laptop.
- Workstations are powerful PCs used as server in networked environment.