

Memory v Storage

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Secondary storage is any non-volatile storage mechanism which can not be accessed directly by the CPU

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- so RAM and ROM
- data and instructions stored there so they can be brought into the CPU when required - via the Fetch - Decode - Execute cycle
- RAM = volatile (deleted when turned off); ROM = v small, non-volatile (BIOS)
- flexible - can be used for both data and instructions
- directly accessible by CPU
- almost always located on the motherboard

Memory v Storage

Secondary storage is any non-volatile storage mechanism which can not be accessed directly by the CPU

- long term storage - used to store data and program files (including the operating system)
- non-volatile - data “persists” when power turned off
- portable
- data/instructions must be loaded into main memory before they can be accessed by the CPU

Memory v Storage

Example exam question:

The cost and physical size of RAM and secondary storage are normally different

Describe two other differences between RAM and secondary storage [2 marks]