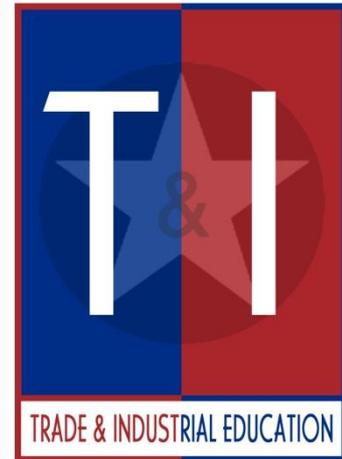# Choosing printers

Karimbayev Shavkat

Summary Slide

- Printers
  - Definition
- Types of printers
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Printer Definition

- A printer produces a paper copy of information generated by a computer.

Types of Printers

Printers fall into two categories:

- Impact printers use a device to strike an inked ribbon, pressing ink from the ribbon onto the paper.

- Non-impact printers use different methods to place ink (or another substance) on the page.

Types of Printers Cont.

Some of the printers out in the market today include the following:

- Dot Matrix Printers
- Ink Jet Printers
- Laser Printers
- Snapshot Printers
- Other High-Quality Printers

Types of Printers cont.

- Dot matrix printer – Dot-matrix printers were once very popular, but have been replaced in popularity by ink-jet p5rinters. Dot-matrix printers typically use continuous form multipart paper and are commonly used for documents such as sales invoices and purchase orders.

- Inside a dot-matrix printer a print head containing small blunt pins strikes an inked ribbon to stamp images on a page.

Types of Printers cont.

- Ink-jet Printer – An ink-jet printer produces high-quality documents at a relatively low price. You can use the documents produced by an ink-jet printer in most circumstances, except when only the highest quality is acceptable, such as for important business correspondence.

- An ink-jet printer sprays ink through small nozzles onto a page to produce images.

Types of Printers cont.

- Laser Printer – A laser printer is a high-speed printer that is ideal for business documents and graphics. Laser printers produce the highest quality images, but are relatively expensive.

- A laser printer works like a photocopier to produce images on a page. A laser beam draws images on a light-sensitive drum. The drum picks up a fine powdered ink called toner, and then transfers the toner to the paper to create the images.

- Laser printers produce higher-quality print than ink jet printers, but are more expensive.

Snapshot Printer

- Snapshot printers are small-format printers that print digital photographs.

- Snapshot printers are fairly slower than other printers, and can be more expensive to operate.

Snapshot Printer

Figure 5. Peter Norton's Introduction to Computers 4th Edition

Choosing a Printer

Before choosing a printer, the following features should be researched:

● Print Quality – The type of printer you should choose depends on the quality of the printed pages you require.

● Speed – Printer speed indicates how quickly a printer can produce printed pages.

Choosing a Printer

- Resolution – Printer resolution determines the quality of the images the printer can produce.

- Software – Most printers intended for home sue include software you can use to create special documents, such as greeting cards.

Choosing a Printer

- Consumables – All printers require items that have to be replaced on a regular basis, such as ink or toner. Make sure you are aware of how they cost.

- Print Media – when choosing a printer, you should check the size and type of paper the printer accepts. If you are going to need to print on envelopes and labels, make sure the printer has that feature.

Choosing a Printer

- Color – Color printers usually use cyan, magenta, yellow and black ink to create color images on a page. Color ink jet printers are the most popular because they are less expensive.

- Warranty – The length of a printer warranty may range from 90 days to one year. Consider an extended warranty or service contract for you printer.