

Problem solving is an age old activity. Digital computer handles information as strings of binary numbers i.e., zeros and ones, with the help of counting process but analogue computer converts varying quantities such as temperature and pressure into corresponding electrical voltages and then performs specified functions on the given signals. The following table depicts some of the important applications and uses of computers: (i) Provide a large data bank of information; (ii) Aid to time-tabling; (iii) Carry out lengthy or complex calculations; Education (iv) Assist teaching and learning processes; (v) Provide students' profiles; (vi) Assist in career guidance. The motorists, the air passenger, hospital patients and those working in large departmental stores, are some of the people for whom computers process information. Everyone who pays for electricity or telephone has their bills processed by computers. Many people who are working in major organisations and receive monthly salary have their salary slips prepared by computers. Thus, it is difficult to find anyone who in some way or the other does not have some information concerning them processed by computer. No longer are they just big boxes with flashing lights whose sole purpose is to do arithmetic at high speed but they make use of studies in philosophy, psychology, mathematics and linguistics to produce output that mimics the human mind. Most computers are digital, so much so that the word computer is 1 41 41 to 1:41 COMPUTER APPLICATIONS At present, computers are widely used for varied purposes like, Educational, commercial, industrial, administrative, transport, medical, etc. A digital computer is one which operates essentially by counting (using information, including letters and symbols, in coded form) whereas the analogue computer operates by measuring rather than counting. (i) Model processing; Scientific Research (ii) Performing computations; (iii) Research and data analysis Thus, analogue computers are .(used for certain specialised engineering and scientific applications. (calculations