

Alternative input devices



What are alternative input devices?

Alternative input devices are assistive technologies that **allow users to control a computer without using a standard keyboard or mouse.**

Enable and help people access computers and digital systems, and support independence in school, work, and daily life.

Enables people to perform tasks that might otherwise be difficult or impossible.

Examples

Adaptive keyboards

- Larger or high-contrast keys, custom layouts, and keyguards.
- Easier typing for users with motor difficulties.

Alternative pointing devices

- Joysticks and trackballs, touchscreens, and head-controlled mice.
- Used instead of a standard mouse for easier control.

Voice recognition systems

- Control device using speech, dictate text instead of typing.
- Converts speech into commands or written text.

Eye-tracking systems

- The cursor is controlled by moving eyes and selecting items by looking.
- Useful for users with severe physical disabilities.

Switch devices

- Connect simple buttons that are activated by movement with hands, feet, or head.
- Convert small actions into computer commands.

Head and motion controls

- Head mice (moves the cursor with head movement), sip-and-puff systems (controlled by breathing).
- Allow hands-free computer use.

Communication devices (AAC)

- Speech-generating devices, communication boards, or apps.
- Help users express their thoughts and communicate.