

# Mobile Devices

Hi there, it's me again. You might remember me from the previous module, and no worries if not, what's important is to make sure you've got the latest info on mobile devices. You'll see me again throughout the rest of this module. Mobile devices are computers too, they have CPUs, RAM, storage, power systems and peripherals. What's special about them is because they're mobile. They're portable and usually powered by batteries. Some are tablets or smartphones. Other mobile devices are optimized to perform a specific set of tasks, like fitness trackers or smartwatches. They're very integrated. Remember the systems that we showed you earlier, the components can be taken out and held in place. In mobile devices, components are held together in a way that you can't take apart. The smaller the device, the more integrated the components are. They connect directly to the device's motherboard. Very small mobile devices use a system on a chip or SOC. A system on a chip integrates all the components onto a single chip. Not only is the SOC small, they use less battery power than if those components were separate. Smartphones connect to Bluetooth headphones, for example. Mobile devices can also be a peripheral to your computer. That same fitness tracker might use a heart rate monitor as a peripheral. It's important to know about proprietary ports and connectors. You might need to have a specific adapter or connector for charging a device or for data transfer. The physical shape or the intended use of the mobile device makes a standard connection like USB a bad choice. For example, if you had a micro-USB port, that port will be damaged if exposed to water. So instead, it's designed with a custom charging port. We'll look at some of the standard power, data and display connector types you'll find used in mobile devices. This includes USB-C, micro-USB, mini HDMI, and the mini DisplayPort. Because mobile devices are general-purpose, they run various operating systems and application software that are specifically designed to maximize their performance. We'll dive into that next. As an IT support specialist, you might be responsible for helping end-users with their mobile devices. This might include troubleshooting, setting up, or repairing devices. Don't worry, we're going to break all this down for you. One super important thing, mobile devices can come from work or personal. We call this bring your own device or BYOD. You should be careful to distinguish between the two. To know how to handle these devices is always best to refer to your organization's policy.

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