BBC Bitesize

Memory types - GCSE Computer Science video

NARRATOR: Computers have different types of memory.

Read-only memory – or ROM – holds instructions for starting up the computer.

Random access memory – or RAM – is where information and data currently in use is stored, so that it can be accessed quickly.

When RAM becomes full, data is moved to the computer's virtual memory, a temporary place on the hard drive.

But using virtual memory slows down the computer's performance.

That's because data has to be transferred back and forth between RAM and virtual memory as needed.

RAM is volatile, which means the data is lost every time the computer is switched off – unlike ROM which is non-volatile.