

Geek Alert !!!

Bits n' Bytes - The Language of Computers

The “**Bit**” = the fundamental computer unit of measurement - The “ones and zeros” of computer language

8 bits = 1 **Byte**

One alphabet or numerical character = 1 byte

One “typed” page = about 1,000 Bytes = 1 **Kilobyte** (say “1 K”) = 1KB

1 Million Bytes = 1 **Megabyte** (say “1 Meg”) = 1 MB

1 Billion Bytes = 1 **Gigabyte** (say “1 Gig”) = 1 GB

1 Trillion Bytes = 1 **Terabyte** = 1 TB

Kilo (K) = 1 thousand
Mega (M) = 1 million
Giga (G) = 1 billion
Tera (T) = 1 trillion

To calculate the number of Bytes given the number of Bits, divide by 8.

eg: 240,000 **Bits** = $240,000 \div 8 = 30,000$ **Bytes** (or 30 KB)

A rule-of-thumb:

Bits are abbreviated as a “small-b” - eg; 250 Mb / sec
(say: “Megabits per second”)

Bytes are abbreviated as a “capital-B” - eg; 250 MB / sec
(say: “Megabytes per second”)