Raspberry Pi
Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Raspberry Pi?

Created by the Raspberry Pi Foundation, the Raspberry Pi is an open-source, Linux based, credit card sized computer board. The Pi is an exciting and accessible means of improving computing and programming skills for people of all ages. By connecting to your TV or monitor and a keyboard, and with the right programming, the Pi can do many things that a desktop computer can do such as surf the internet and play video. The Pi is also great for those innovative projects that you want to try out - newer models are ideal for Internet of Things projects due to their processing power. With Pi 3, Wireless LAN and Bluetooth Low Energy are on-board too.

What are the differences between the models?

Current versions of the Raspberry Pi are the Pi A+, Pi B+, Pi 2 B, Pi 3 B and Compute Module.

|	Pi A+	Pi B+	Pi 2 B	Pi 3 B	Compute Module
Dimensions	66 x 56 x 14mm	85 x 56 x 17mm	85 x 56 x 17mm	85 x 56 x 17mm	67.5 x 30mm
SoC	BCM2835	BCM2835	BCM2836	BCM2837	BCM2835
Processor Core	ARM11	ARM11	ARM Cortex-A7	ARM Cortex-A53	ARM11
Processing Power	700 MHz	700 MHz	900 MHz	1.2 GHz	700 MHz
Memory	256 MB	512 MB	1 GB	1GB LPDDR2	512 MB
Ports	1x USB 2.0	4x USB 2.0 1x 10/100 Ethernet	4x USB 2.0 1x 10/100 Ethernet	4x USB 2.0 1x 10/100 Ethernet	N/A
GPIO	40	40	40	40	N/A

What do I get with my Raspberry Pi?

A Raspberry Pi board only.

Each Raspberry Pi customer is unique. You may already have cables, power supplies, keyboards, SD memory cards or monitors. However, if you do require additional products to start with your Pi or to really get creative, we can help.

Our expanding range of accessories includes:

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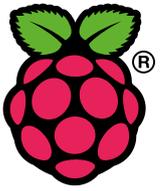
How do I get connected?

To get started with your Pi you will need;
- A monitor or TV screen to set-up your Pi
- A keyboard to interact with your Pi
- A mouse to navigate your Pi
- A power supply
- An SD card with the latest version of New Out Of Box Software (NOOBS),
  to install the operating system that you would like to use.

To get **sound** and **video** you will need cables to suit what your screen or monitor accepts. For those with monitors that accept VGA, a HDMI to VGA adaptor is needed in addition to a HDMI cable, unless you use the composite video output from the Pi.

For an **internet connection**, the Pi B+ and Pi 2 B have an ethernet port. You also have the option of adding a WiFi Adapter/Dongle which may mean that you need a USB Hub if you have run out of USB ports. The Pi 3 already has 802.11 b/g/n wireless LAN and Bluetooth 4.1 (Bluetooth Classic and Low Energy).

Powering my Pi

The Pi has a 5 V microUSB power socket, located on the bottom left hand corner of your Pi board.

| Version	Recommended Power Supply Current Capacity
Pi B	1.2 A
Pi A+	700 mA
Pi B+	1.8 A
Pi 2 B	1.8 A
Pi 3 B	2.5 A

Generally, the more USB ports and interfaces you use on your Pi, the more power you are going to need - be careful.

We advise to look at buying a powered USB hub - this means less pressure on your Pi whilst still being able to incorporate all the features and functionality that you want to. When connecting any devices to your Pi, it is advisable to always check the power rating.

Batteries are not a recommended power supply for your Pi.

Note: The Official Raspberry Power Supply Unit for Pi 3 is not a general purpose power supply and must only be used for the Pi 3.

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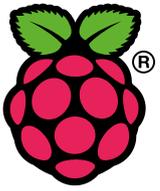
What is the user name and password for the Raspberry Pi?

The user name for Raspbian is **pi**

The password for Raspbian is **raspberry**

Operating Systems, Programming Languages & SD Cards

You will need an **operating system** to start using your Pi. An operating system is vital software that acts as a computer manager.

To download an operating system you will need an **SD card** between 8-32 GB. We have SD cards with New Out Of Box Software (NOOBS) pre-installed, so you don't have to do all of the work. NOOBS helps you to set up your Pi and has six operating systems that you can download;

Of course, you don't have to use NOOBS. The Raspberry Pi Foundation regularly updates other available 'distros' in the downloads section of their website.

Python is the recommended **programming language** — particularly if you are new to programming or want to refresh your programming knowledge.

Scratch is a great interactive programming language for children who want to learn to code through creating games, stories and animations.

Other programming languages you can get on your Pi include C, C++, Java and Ruby.
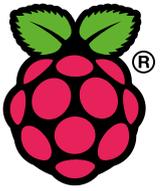
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What educational material/resources can I use?

There is so much information out there to support you with Raspberry Pi due to it's collaborative nature.

DESIGNSPARK

Here at RS, we recommend DesignSpark, our own support gateway filled with blogs, forums, useful tools, product reviews and much more. You can also let us know how you get on with your projects.

We have a range of Raspberry Pi support books, written by Pi experts such as it's co-founder Eben Upton and Carrie Philbin.

Other great Pi resources

Not answered your query?

DesignSpark or The Raspberry Pi Foundation website may be able to help you further.