

communication device

A **communication device** is a hardware device capable of transmitting an analog or digital signal over the telephone, other communication wire, or wirelessly.

A classic example of a communication device is a computer modem, which converts a computer's digital information to an analog signal for transmission over a telephone line. Similarly, a modem receives analog signals, and converts them to digital, for processing by the computer. This process is called modulation/demodulation, from which the modem gets its name.

Other examples of communication devices include a NIC (network interface card)

Communication device examples

Below is a full listing of all the different types of communications devices you may encounter when dealing with a computer.

- Bluetooth devices

d), Wi-Fi devices,
and access points

- Infrared devices
- Modem (over phone line)
- Network card (using Ethernet)
- Smartphone
- Wi-Fi devices (using a Wi-Fi router);

Communication device errors

Any time a communication device encounters problems communicating with another device you may encounter a communication error. Below is a list of general steps that can be verified when this error is encountered.

- If your communication device is using a wire, make sure it is firmly connected.

- Make sure the proper [drivers](#) are installed and that no errors or conflicts are occurring with the driver and that the device is being detected.
- If your communication device requires settings, make sure they're correct. For example, a network card will require the proper [IP](#), [DNS](#), and [Subnet](#) settings to establish a connection with the network and be able to find its route to other network devices.

Why do computers need communication devices?

A computer can work fine without a communication device. However, for a computer to communicate with other computers they need a communication device. For example, for your computer to connect to the [Internet](#) to view this [web page](#) it needed a communication device. Without a communication device you'd have to use a [sneaker net](#) to transfer or share data between computers.