

Definitions of units | Part C

Let's turn to our table again; we have now covered the first three, a bit, a nibble and a byte.

The other ones are a bit easier to relate, so a kilo is one thousand bytes, that's three zeros. A megabyte is one million bytes, six zeros or a thousand kilobytes. Giga is one billion – that's nine zeros bytes or one thousand megabytes or one million kilobytes, and then tera which is one trillion, twelve zeros bytes or a thousand gigabytes or one million megabytes or one billion kilobytes.

Kilo means a thousand, two kilobytes would make up a typewritten page while ten kilobytes would be a dictionary page where there is lots of text in a small font. A few megabytes is the usual size of an audio recording of a song, a few gigabytes will hold a full length movie in decent quality. There are about eight gigabytes in a DVD.

Terabytes can back up everything on our computer or hold our entire family video collection, however our table states that there are 1,024 rather than 1,000 bytes in a kilobyte, is that a typo? Well, we're dealing with binary numbers here which must be in degrees of two so 1,024 is 2 to the power of 10 and is the closest binary number to a thousand, so close enough.