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| Storage | Method | Capacity | Speed | Portability | Durability and Reliability |
| CD (Compact Disc) | Optical | 650 Mb | Slower than hard disk but faster than tape. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Fairly portable. Too big to fit in pocket but easily fit into bag. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Not very reliable - Can be easily scratched. Scratching can cause data to become corrupt. Needs protecting from extreme heat. |
| DVD (DigitalVersatile Disc) | Optical | 4.7 GB (Single Layer) 9 GB (Double Layer) | Slower than hard disk but faster than tape. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Fairly portable. Too big to fit in pocket but easily fit into bag. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Not very reliable - Can be easily scratched. Scratching can cause data to become corrupt. Needs protecting from extreme heat. |
| Blu-ray Disc | Optical | 25 GB (Single Layer) 50 GB (Double Layer) | Slower than hard disk but faster than tape. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Fairly portable. Too big to fit in pocket but easily fit into bag. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Not very reliable - Can be easily scratched. Scratching can cause data to become corrupt. Needs protecting from extreme heat. |
| Floppy Disk | Magnetic | 1.44 Mb | Slow. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯ (4.5 Stars)Will fit in good-sized pocket but larger than a USB stick. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Unreliable - Can be snapped easily. Can be damaged if exposed to strong magnets. |
| Internal HardDisk | Magnetic | Up to 4 Tb | Fast. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Not designed to be portable. Is attached directly to the computer chassis. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Fairly reliable but can be damaged if dropped or exposed to extreme heat or strong magnetic fields.  |
| External HardDisk | Magnetic | Up to 4 Tb | Slower than internal hard disk but faster than CD/DVD. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Fairly portable. Comes in various sizes but normally larger than a CD / USB stick. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Fairly reliable but can be damaged if dropped or exposed to extreme heat or strong magnetic fields. |
| Flash drive (USB stick or memory card) | Solid State | Up to 512 GB  | Slower than hard disk but faster than CD/DVD. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Very portable. Easily fit in pocket. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯ (4.5 Stars)Usually very reliable - Very durable. Not affected by magnets or extreme temperatures. USB connector can be snapped off rendering the device unusable. Data can become corrupt if not ejected correctly. |
| Solid State Drive (Internal) | Solid State | 64 Gb to 256 Gb | Very fast – No moving parts. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Fairly portable. Comes in various sizes but normally larger than a CD. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯Very reliable **-** Very durable. Not affected by magnets or extreme temperatures. Can be dropped without damaging contents. |