Rohner and Simonson (1981) defined computer anxiety as "the mixture of fear, apprehension, and hope that people feel when planning to interact or when actually interacting with a computer" (p. 551). They further noted that, "people who are computer anxious, when given the choice between using and not using a computer, often choose not to use" (p. 551).

Maurer (1983) believed that computer anxiety was the emotions experienced by an individual considering the utilization of computers and computer technology. He found that the individual is in a state of computer anxiety because of the fear of interaction with the computer, even though the computer possesses no immediate or real threat.

According to Maurer and Simonson (1984) computer anxiety was defined as the fear or apprehension felt by individuals when they used computers or when they considered the possibility of computer utilization. A person with computer anxiety would demonstrate the following behaviors: (a) avoidance of computers, and the area where they were located; (b) excessive caution when using computers; (c) negative remarks toward computers and computing; and (d) attempts to shorten periods when computers were being used (Maurer & Simonson, 1984).

Psychologists and educators proposed that computer anxiety is comparable to test anxiety and math anxiety as a situation manifestation of the general anxiety construct (Cambre & Cook, 1985). In synthesizing a definition for computer anxiety they stated the following:

1. Researchers have found that some individuals given evidence, either through physiological changes or responses on self-report measures, of a fear of using computers which they have termed computer anxiety.