

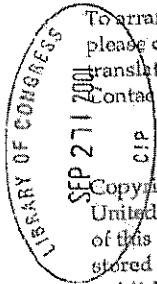
Computer Desktop Encyclopedia

Ninth Edition

Alan Freedman

Osborne/McGraw-Hill
New York Chicago San Francisco
Lisbon London Madrid Mexico City Milan
New Delhi San Juan Seoul Singapore Sydney Toronto

Osborne/McGraw-Hill
2600 Tenth Street
Berkeley, California 94710
U.S.A.



To arrange bulk purchase discounts for sales promotions, premiums, or fund-raisers, please contact Osborne/McGraw-Hill at the above address. For information on translations or book distributors outside the U.S.A., please see the International Contact Information page at the end of this book.

Computer Desktop Encyclopedia, Ninth Edition

Copyright © 2001 by The McGraw-Hill Companies. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. Except as permitted under the Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher, with the exception that the program listings may be entered, stored, and executed in a computer system, but they may not be reproduced for publication.

1234567890 DOC DOC 901987654321

Book p/n 0-07-219307-7 and CD p/n 0-07-219308-5
parts of
ISBN 0-07-219306-9

Publisher
Brandon A. Nordin

Vice President & Associate Publisher
Scott Rogers

Editorial Director
Roger Stewart

Senior Project Editor
Pamela Woolf

Proofreaders
Linda Medoff, Paul Medoff

Computer Designers
Lauren McCarthy, Tabitha Cagan

Illustrators
Lyssa Wald, Michael Mueller

Series Design
Peter F. Hancik

Cover Design
Greg Scott

Cover Illustration
John Bleck

LC Control Number



2001 278111

This book was composed with Corel VENTURA™ Publisher.

Information has been obtained by Osborne/McGraw-Hill from sources believed to be reliable. However, because of the possibility of human or mechanical error by our sources, Osborne/McGraw-Hill, or others, Osborne/McGraw-Hill does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, or completeness of any information and is not responsible for any errors or omissions or the results obtained from use of such information.

PATROL An application management suite from BMC that uses agents to report on software activities on all the servers within the enterprise. Using the information in "knowledge modules" (KMs) about each system component, agents detect events, collect information and notify system and network administrators to take corrective action.

PAX (1) (Private Automatic Exchange) An inhouse intercom system.
 (2) (Parallel Architecture Extended) A parallel processing environment standard based on Intel's i860 RISC chip, UNIX System V and Alliant Computer's parallel and 3-D graphics technologies.

payload The data-carrying capacity of some structure. It typically refers to a part of a packet or frame in a communications system that holds the message data in contrast to the headers, which are considered overhead.

payment service See *Web payment service*.

payware Software distributed for money. Contrast with *freeware*.

PB See *PowerBuilder*.

PBX (Private Branch eXchange) An inhouse telephone switching system that interconnects telephone extensions to each other, as well as to the outside telephone network. It may include functions such as least cost routing for outside calls, call forwarding, conference calling and call accounting. Modern PBXs use all-digital methods for switching and may support both digital terminals and telephones along with analog telephones. See *WPBX*.



An Early PBX
 This PBX began operation in Bangor, Maine in 1883. (Image courtesy of AT&T.)

PC (3) (Printed Circuit) See *printed circuit board*.

(2) (Personal Computer) Any laptop or desktop computer such as Windows machine or a Macintosh.

(1) (Personal Computer) A stand-alone laptop or desktop computer running Windows (or DOS for earlier applications). PC hardware and operating systems are primarily governed by Intel and Microsoft respectively. The PC is the world's largest computer base.

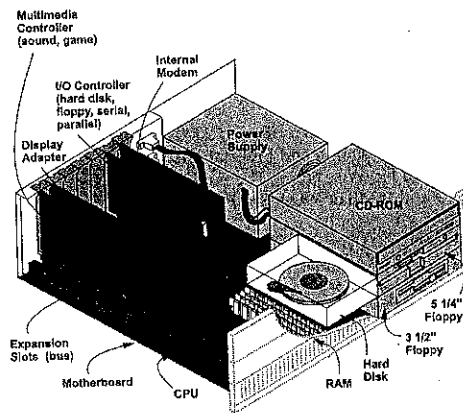
PCs are also widely used as clients and servers in a local area network (LAN). PC clients predominantly run under Windows, but PC servers (x86-based servers) run under Windows, NetWare or a variation of UNIX such as Linux or UnixWare. PC servers may use Windows 95/98, but Windows NT and 2000 are more likely choices.

Although there are literally thousands of PC vendors, from mom and pop shops to large mail order houses (Dell, Gateway, etc.) to the major computer companies (Compaq, HP, etc.), and of course IBM, still one of the world's largest PC makers, all PCs use an Intel x86 or compatible CPU.

After IBM introduced the PC in 1981, the first attempts at cloning it were mostly unsuccessful. Except for Compaq's first PC, from 1982 to 1985, there were a lot of "almost compatible" PCs. However, as soon as the part of the operating system known as the BIOS was successfully cloned and made commercially available, true compatibles appeared in abundance.

Before Windows 95, adding another peripheral device to a PC was often an exercise in trial and error. Modifying DOS's infamous configuration files (AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS) caused many a user to give up. Windows 95, 98 and 2000 added Plug and Play, which means for the most part, you can replace hard disks and display adapters, as well as add a scanner, CD-ROM or other device without difficulty.

The PC has become a commodity item, winding its way onto the shelves of retail outlets worldwide. This is a testimonial to the power of a computer standard, even one fraught with loopholes and inconsistencies.



What's inside a PC?

Perl (Practical Extraction Report Language) A programming language written by Larry Wall that combines syntax from several UNIX utilities and languages. Introduced in 1987, Perl is designed to handle a variety of system administrator functions and provides comprehensive string handling functions. It is widely used to write Web server programs for such tasks as automatically updating user accounts and newsgroup postings, processing removal requests, synchronizing databases and generating reports. Perl has also been adapted to non-UNIX platforms. See also *PURL*.

permanent font (1) A soft font that is kept in the printer's memory until the printer is turned off.
(2) Same as *internal font*.

permanent memory Same as *non-volatile memory*.

permutation One possible combination of items out of a larger set of items. For example, with the set of numbers 1, 2 and 3, there are six possible permutations: 12, 21, 13, 31, 23 and 32.

perpendicular recording See *vertical recording*.

per seat By workstation. See *per seat licensing*.

per seat licensing Software licensing based on a per user basis. For example, a 100-user license means that up to 100 specifically-named users have access to the program. Per seat licensing is administered by providing user-level security to the directory containing the program. Contrast with *concurrent licensing*.

persistence (1) In a CRT, the time a phosphor dot remains illuminated after being energized. Long-persistence phosphors reduce flicker, but generate ghost-like images that linger on screen for a fraction of a second.

(2) In object technology, the storage of an object on a disk or other permanent storage device.

persistent data Data that exists from session to session. Persistent data is stored in a database on disk or tape. Contrast with *transient data*.

persistent link See *hot link*.

persistent object An object that continues to exist after the program that created it has been unloaded. An object's class and current state must be saved for use in subsequent sessions. In object technology, persistence means storing the object for later use.

personal agent See *agent*.

personal communicator See *PDA*.

personal computer Synonymous with "microcomputer," "desktop computer," and "laptop computer," it is a computer that serves one user in the office or home. A complete personal computer system with printer can cost as little as \$1,000 or as much as \$8,000 or more. Size is based on memory and disk capacity. Speed is based on the CPU that runs it, and output quality is based on the type and resolution of its monitor and printer.

Major Suppliers of Personal Computers The personal computer world is dominated by Windows-based PCs. There are thousands of vendors that make them, from mom and pop shops to huge companies such as Compaq, HP and IBM. The alternate personal computer standard is Apple's Macintosh, which is only made by Apple. Atari and Commodore once carved out their respective niches, but Atari returned to its gaming roots and Commodore has since closed its doors.

The History of Personal Computers The industry began in 1977, when Apple, Radio Shack and Commodore introduced the first off-the-shelf computers as consumer products. The first machines used an 8-bit microprocessor with a maximum of 64K of memory and floppy disks for storage. The Apple II, Atari 500, and Commodore 64 became popular home computers, and Apple was successful in companies after the VisiCalc spreadsheet was introduced. However, the business world was soon dominated by the Z80 processor and CP/M operating system, used by

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.