



The Ultimate Computer Reference



*The Comprehensive Standard for
Business, School, Library, and Home*



Over
7,600
Terms
Additional Terms
Available On Line
Quarterly

Microsoft Press[®]
**Computer
Dictionary**
Third
Edition



- Over 300 illustrations and diagrams
- Extensive Internet coverage
- Featured in Microsoft[®] Bookshelf[®]
- Covers software, hardware, concepts, and more!

Microsoft Press
**Computer
Dictionary**

Third Edition

Microsoft Press

PUBLISHED BY
Microsoft Press
A Division of Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, Washington 98052-6399

Copyright © 1997 by Microsoft Corporation

All rights reserved. No part of the contents of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the publisher.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary. -- 3rd ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 1-57231-446-X

1. Computers--Dictionaries. 2. Microcomputers--Dictionaries.

I. Microsoft Press.

QA76.15.M54 1997

004'.03--dc21

97-15489

CIP

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 QMQM 2 1 0 9 8 7

Distributed to the book trade in Canada by Macmillan of Canada, a division of Canada Publishing Corporation.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Microsoft Press books are available through booksellers and distributors worldwide. For further information about international editions, contact your local Microsoft Corporation office. Or contact Microsoft Press International directly at fax (425) 936-7329.

Macintosh, Power Macintosh, QuickTime, and TrueType are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. Intel is a registered trademark of Intel Corporation. DirectInput, DirectX, Microsoft, Microsoft Press, MS-DOS, Visual Basic, Visual C++, Win32, Win32s, Windows, Windows NT, and XENIX are registered trademarks and ActiveMovie, ActiveX, and Visual J++ are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Java is a trademark of Sun Microsystems, Inc. Other product and company names mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

Acquisitions Editor: Kim Fryer

Project Editor: Maureen Williams Zimmerman, Anne Taussig

Technical Editors: Dail Magee Jr., Gary Nelson, Jean Ross, Jim Fuchs, John Conrow, Kurt Meyer,
Robert Lyon, Roslyn Lutsch

Contents

Introduction

v

Dictionary *of Computer Terms*

1

Appendix A

ASCII Character Set

520

Appendix B

IBM Extended Character Set

522

Appendix C

Apple Macintosh Extended Character Set

524

Appendix D

EBCDIC Character Set

528

Appendix E

Numeric Equivalents

534

time, depending on the implementation, and it allows intelligent, PCI-compliant adapters to perform tasks concurrently with the CPU using a technique called bus mastering. The PCI specification allows for multiplexing, a technique that permits more than one electrical signal to be present on the bus at one time. *See also* local bus. *Compare* VL bus.

PCL \P`C-L` n. *See* Printer Control Language.

PCM \P`C-M` n. *See* pulse code modulation.

PCMCIA \P`C-M`C-I-A` n. Acronym for **Personal Computer Memory Card International Association**.

A group of manufacturers and vendors formed to promote a common standard for PC Card-based peripherals and the slot designed to hold them, primarily on laptop, palmtop, and other portable computers, as well as for intelligent electronic devices. PCMCIA is also the name of the standard for PC Cards, first introduced in 1990 as release 1. *See also* PC Card, PCMCIA slot.

PCMCIA card \P`C-M`C-I-A` kãrd` n. *See* PC card.

PCMCIA connector \P`C-M`C-I-A` kã-nek`tãr` n. The 68-pin female connector inside a PCMCIA slot designed to hold the 68-pin male connector on a PC Card. *See also* PC Card, PCMCIA slot.

PCMCIA slot \P`C-M`C-I-A` slot` n. An opening in the housing of a computer, peripheral, or other intelligent electronic device designed to hold a PC Card. *Also called* PC Card slot. *See also* PC Card, PCMCIA connector.

PC memory card \P-C` mem`ãr-ē kãrd` n. **1.** An add-in circuit card that increases the amount of RAM in a system. *See also* memory card. **2.** A Type I PC Card as specified by PCMCIA. In this context,

such a card consists of conventional static RAM chips powered by a small battery and is designed to provide additional RAM to the system. *See also* PC Card. *Compare* flash memory.

p-code \P`kõd` n. *See* pseudocode.

PCT \P`C-T` n. Acronym for **program comprehension tool**. A software engineering tool that facilitates the process of understanding the structure and/or functionality of computer programs.

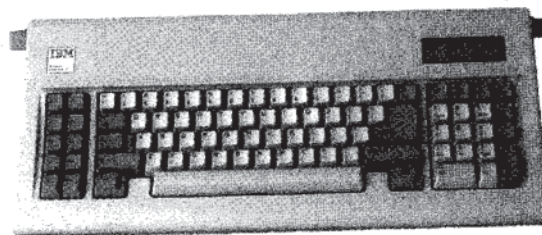
.pcx \dot-P`C-X` n. The file extension that identifies bitmapped images in the PC Paintbrush file format.

PC/XT \P`C-X-T` n. The original IBM Personal Computer, introduced in 1981, which used the Intel 8088 CPU. *See also* IBM PC.

PC/XT keyboard \P`C-X-T` kē`bõrd` n. The original keyboard for the IBM Personal Computer. Strong, reliable, and equipped with 83 keys, the PC/XT keyboard offers a typist an audible click. *See the illustration.* *See also* IBM PC, PC/XT.

PDA \P`D-A` n. Acronym for **Personal Digital Assistant**. A lightweight palmtop computer designed to provide specific functions like personal organization (calendar, note taking, database, calculator, and so on) as well as communications. More advanced models also offer multimedia features. Many PDA devices rely on a pen or other pointing device for input instead of a keyboard or mouse, although some offer a keyboard too small for touch typing to use in conjunction with a pen or pointing device. For data storage, a PDA relies on flash memory instead of power-hungry disk drives. *See also* firmware, flash memory, PC Card, pen computer.

PDC \P`D-C` n. *See* Primary Domain Controller.



PC/XT keyboard.