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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.

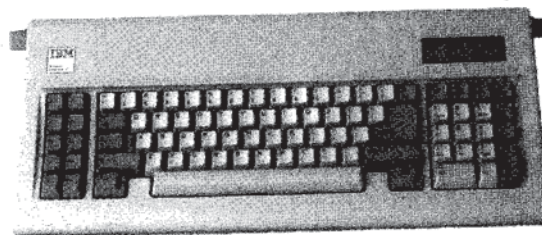
**.pcx** \dot-P`C-X` n. The file extension that identifies bitmapped images in the PC Paintbrush file format.

**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.*