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# Computer Dictionary

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**Puck.**

**puff and sip device** *n.* An assistive computer technology for people with mobility impairments. A puff and sip device is a head-mounted alternative to using a mouse or keyboard. For mouse functionality, the device allows a user to move the mouse pointer without using his or her hands by puffing air into a tube.

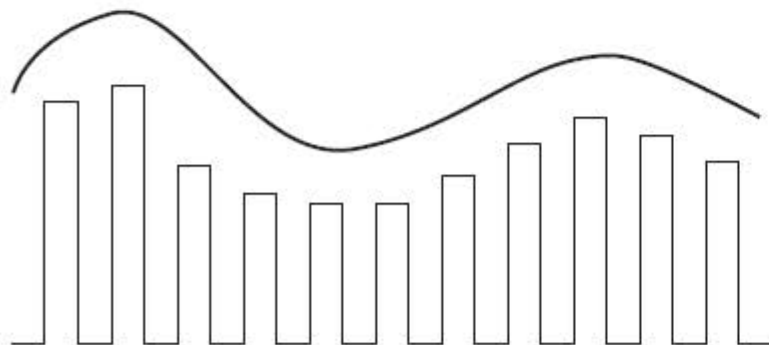
**pull** *vb.* The process of retrieving data from a network server. *Compare* push (definition 2). *See* pop.

**pull-down menu** *n.* A menu that is pulled down from the menu bar and that remains available as long as the user holds it open. *Compare* drop-down menu.

**pulse** *n.* A transient signal, usually brief and with a discrete onset and offset.

**P**

**pulse amplitude modulation** *n.* A method of encoding information in a signal by varying the amplitude of pulses. The unmodulated signal consists of a continuous train of pulses of constant frequency, duration, and amplitude. During modulation the pulse amplitudes are changed to reflect the information being encoded. *See* the illustration. *Acronym:* PAM. *Compare* pulse code modulation, pulse duration modulation, pulse position modulation.

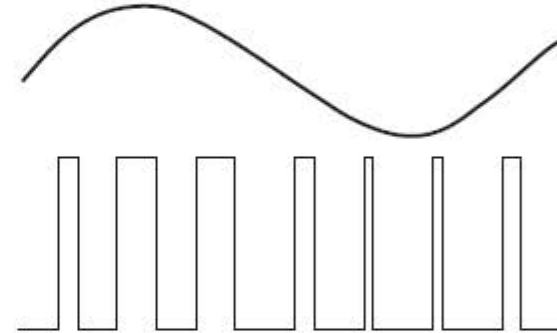


**Pulse amplitude modulation.**

pulse code modulation is more minimum.  
*Acronym:* PCM. *Compare* pulse ampli  
pulse duration modulation, pulse posit

**pulse dialing** *n.* *See* rotary dialing.

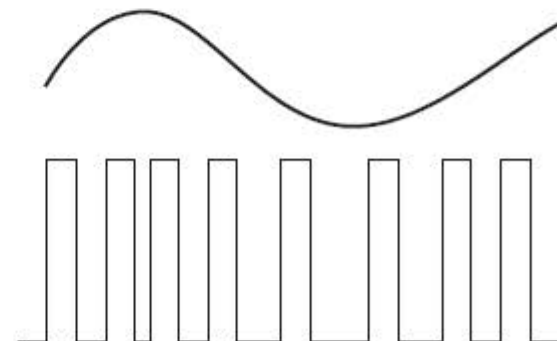
**pulse duration modulation** *n.* A method of encoding information in a signal by varying the duration of pulses. The unmodulated signal consists of a continuous train of pulses of constant frequency, duration, and amplitude. During modulation, the pulse durations reflect the information being encoded. *Acronym:* PDM. *Also called:* pulse length modulation, pulse width modulation.



**Pulse duration modulation.**

**pulse length modulation** *n.* *See* pulse duration modulation.

**pulse position modulation** *n.* A method of encoding information in a signal by varying the position of pulses. The unmodulated signal consists of a continuous train of pulses of constant frequency, duration, and amplitude. During modulation, the pulse positions reflect the information being encoded. *Acronym:* PPM. *Compare* pulse amplitude modulation, pulse code modulation, pulse duration modulation.



**Pulse position modulation.**

**punched-card reader** *n.* *See* card reader.

**pure procedure** *n.* Any procedure that modifies only data that is dynamically allocated (usually on the stack). A pure procedure cannot modify either global data or its own code. This restriction allows a pure procedure to be called simultaneously by separate tasks. *See also* reentrant code.

**purge** *vb.* To eliminate old or unneeded information systematically; to clean up, as files.

**push<sup>1</sup>** *n.* A technology developed in relation to the World Wide Web, designed to provide end users with personalized Web access by having a site actively “push” requested information to the user’s desktop, either automatically or at specified intervals. Push was developed as a means of relieving users from having to actively retrieve (“pull”) information from the Web. It is not, as yet, especially popular.

**push<sup>2</sup>** *vb.* **1.** To add a new element to a stack, a data structure generally used to temporarily hold pieces of data being transferred or the partial result of an arithmetic operation. *See also* stack. *Compare* pop. **2.** In networks and the Internet, to send data or a program from a server to a client at the instigation of the server. *See also* push<sup>2</sup>. *Compare* pull.

to the nodes, but the data can be transmitted over a common carrier. *See also* common carrier, node, packet switching, virtual private network.

**pwd** *n.* Acronym for **print working directory**. A command for displaying the current directory.

**PWM** *n.* Acronym for **pulse width modulation**. A duration modulation.

**PXE boot** *n.* Acronym for **Preboot Execution Environment boot**. A BIOS-supported technology that allows a PC remotely. To power on a PC and boot from a network, PXE must be enabled in the BIOS. For the PC to boot, the PC must be PXE compliant. PXE is part of the Intel Wired for Management (WfM) technology. *called:* network boot.

**pyramid diagram** *n.* A diagram that illustrates hierarchical relationships.

**Python** *n.* A portable, interpreted, object-oriented programming language developed and freely distributed by a developer. Python runs on many platforms including UNIX, Windows, OS/2, and Macintosh. It is used for writing TCP/IP applications.