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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.

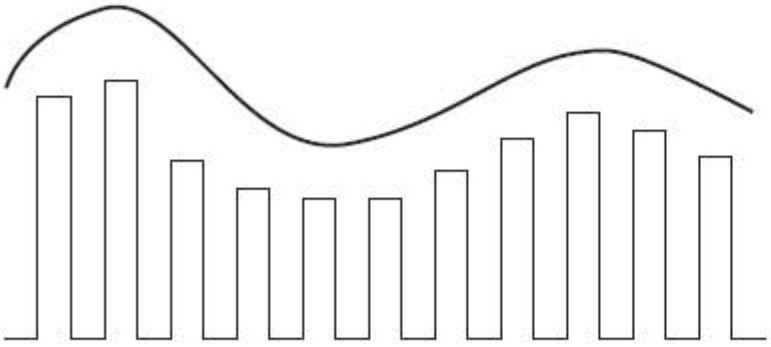
pull *vb.* The process of retrieving data from a network server. *Compare* push (definition 2). *See* pop.

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.

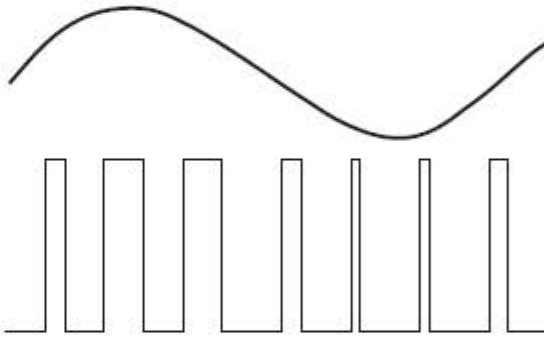


Pulse amplitude modulation.

pulse code modulation is more minute
Acronym: PCM. *Compare* pulse ampli
pulse duration modulation, pulse positi

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

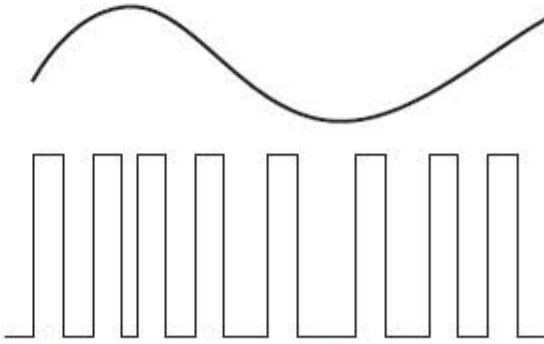
pulse duration modulation *n.* A met
information in a signal by varying the
The unmodulated signal consists of a
pulses of constant frequency, duration
During modulation, the pulse duration
reflect the information being encoded.
Acronym: PDM. *Also called:* pulse le
pulse width modulation.



Pulse duration modulation.

pulse length modulation *n.* *See* pulse

pulse position modulation *n.* A met
information in a signal by varying the
The unmodulated signal consists of a
pulses of constant frequency, duration
During modulation, the pulse position
reflect the information being encoded.
Acronym: PPM. *Compare* pulse ampli
pulse code modulation, pulse duration



Pulse position modulation.

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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[1] *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[2] *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[2]. *Compare* pull.

to the nodes, but the data can be transm
carrier. *See also* common carrier, node
packet switching, virtual private netwo

pwd *n.* Acronym for **p**rint **w**orking **d**i
command for displaying the current di

PWM *n.* Acronym for **p**ulse **w**idth **m**o
duration modulation.

PXE boot *n.* Acronym for **P**reboot Ex
ment **boot**. A BIOS-supported technol
PC remotely. To power on a PC and bo
work, PXE must be enabled in the BIO
the PC must be PXE compliant. PXE
the Intel Wired for Management (WfM
called: network boot.

pyramid diagram *n.* A diagram that is
dation-based relationships.

Python *n.* A portable, interpreted, obj
gramming language developed and free
developer. Python runs on many platfo
UNIX, Windows, OS/2, and Macintos
writing TCP/IP applications.

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