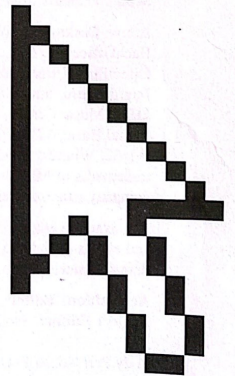


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Microsoft

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Fifth Edition



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drum, and pinch roller. Flatbed plotters hold the paper still and move the pen along both x and y axes. Drum plotters roll the paper over a cylinder. The pen moves along one axis while the drum, with the paper attached, moves along the other. Pinch-roller plotters are a hybrid of the two, in which the pen moves only along one axis while the paper is moved back and forth by small rollers.

PL/SQL *n.* Short for **Procedural Language Extension to SQL**. Oracle's data manipulation language that allows sequenced or grouped execution of SQL statements and is commonly used to manipulate data in an Oracle database. The syntax is similar to the Ada programming language.

plug *n.* A connector, especially a male connector, one that fits into a socket. *See also* male connector.

plug and play *n.* 1. Generally, a reference to the ability of a computer system to automatically configure a device added to it. Plug and play capability exists in Macintoshes based on the NuBus and, since Windows 95, on PC-compatible computers. 2. When capitalized and, especially, when abbreviated PnP, a set of specifications developed by Intel and Microsoft that allows a PC to configure itself automatically to work with peripherals such as monitors, modems, and printers. A user can plug in a peripheral and "play" it without manually configuring the system. A Plug and Play PC requires both a BIOS that supports Plug and Play and a Plug and Play expansion card. *Abbreviation:* PnP. *See also* BIOS, expansion board, peripheral.

plugboard *n.* A board that permits users to control the operation of a device by plugging cables into sockets.

plug-compatible *adj.* Equipped with connectors that are equivalent both in structure and in usage. For example, most modems having DB-25 connectors on their rear panels are plug-compatible—that is, one can be replaced by another without the cable having to be rewired. *Compare* pin-compatible.

plug-in *n.* 1. A small software program that plugs into a larger application to provide added functionality. 2. A software component that plugs into the Netscape Navigator. Plug-ins permit the Web browser to access and execute files embedded in HTML documents that are in formats the browser normally would not recognize, such as many animation, video, and audio files. Most plug-ins are devel-

oped by software companies who have proprietary software in which the embedded files are created. *Compare* helper application.

p-machine *n.* *See* pseudomachine.

PMML *n.* Acronym for **Predictive Model Markup Language**. An XML-based language that enables sharing of defined predictive models between compliant vendor applications.

PMMU *n.* *See* paged memory management unit.

PMOS *n.* Acronym for **P-channel metal-oxide semiconductor**. A MOSFET semiconductor technology in which the conduction channel is formed by the movement of holes (electron "vacancies" created as electrons move from atom to atom) rather than electrons. Because holes move more slowly than electrons do, PMOS is slower than NMOS, but it is also easier and less expensive to fabricate. *See also* MOS, MOSFET, P-type semiconductor. *Compare* CMOS, NMOS.

PMS *n.* *See* PANTONE MATCHING SYSTEM.

PNG *n.* Acronym for **Portable Network Graphics**. A file format for bitmapped graphic images, designed to be a replacement for the GIF format, without the legal restrictions associated with GIF. *See also* GIF.

PNNI *n.* Short for **Private Network-to-Network Interface**. A routing protocol used in ATM networks that provides switches with the ability to communicate changes in the network. Through PNNI, switches can be informed of changes to the network as they occur and can then use the information to make appropriate routing decisions. *See also* ATM.

PnP *n.* *See* plug and play (definition 2).

PNP *n.* *See* PNP transistor.

PNP transistor *n.* A type of bipolar transistor in which a base of N-type material is sandwiched between an emitter and a collector of P-type material. The base, emitter, and collector are the three terminals of the transistor through which current flows. In a PNP transistor, holes (electron "vacancies") are the majority of the charge carriers, and they flow from the emitter to the collector. *See the illustration.* *See also* N-type semiconductor, P-type semiconductor. *Compare* NPN transistor.

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