

6-pin mini-DIN - keyboard and mouse connectors introduced on the IBM PS/2; also known as PS/2 connector

Cable lock slot – a small metal-reinforced hole found on most laptops made for locking the device to a table or other secure location.

Centronics - 36-pin connector used on the parallel printers and cables

DIN - AT keyboard port or connector

eSATA – external connector made for competition with USB and FireWire and designed for hard drives and other storage devices.

Firewire - the IEEE 1394 standard for transferring digital audio and video at speeds of up to 400 Mbps; used mostly in digital cameras.

I/O port- Input/Output port; any port for transferring data into and out of the computer.

KVM Switch – device for connecting one keyboard, mouse and video adapter to several computers; used mostly in server environments where there is limited space.

Parallel - transmits 8 bits side by side at the same time.

PATA – Parallel Advanced Technology Attachment; peripheral component standard used for hard drives and other storage devices; also known as the older EIDE technology.

PS/2 – small round connector with 6 pins used for keyboard and mouse connections.

RJ-11 - connector used to attach an ordinary phone line to a modem.

RJ-45 - connector used to attach a twisted pair network cable to a computer or other network device.

RS-232 - serial standard developed by the TIA/EIA that is used by the COM ports.

SATA – Serial Advanced Technology Attachment; peripheral connector type for hard drives and other storage devices; uses smaller cables and offers higher transfer rates and hot swapping.

SCSI - Small Computer Systems Interface; peripheral connector type that uses a host adapter to connect 7 or 15 devices to a computer; it uses device numbers and a terminator on the last device in the chain.

Serial - transmits 1 bit at a time.

Touch screen - type of display that accepts input from your finger or a stylus pressing on it.

Trackball - inverted mouse-like input device where you roll a ball on the top of the device to move the cursor around on the screen.

USB - Universal Serial Bus; standard designed to interface up to 127 daisy-chained devices.