**JOHNSON DAVID ALEX**

**18/SCI01/047**

**CSC 202 ASSIGNMENT**

**TYPES OF COMPUTER KEYBOARD**

1. **STANDARD KEYBOARDS**

Standard alphanumeric keyboards have keys that are on three-quarter inch centres (0.750 inches, 19.05 mm), and have a key travel of at least 0.150 inches (3.81 mm). Desktop computer keyboards, such as the 101-key US traditional keyboards or the 104-key Windows keyboards, include alphabetic characters, punctuation symbols, numbers and a variety of function keys. The internationally common 102/104 key keyboards have a smaller left shift key and an additional key with some more symbols between that and the letter to its right (usually Z or Y). Also the enter key is usually shaped differently. Computer keyboards are similar to electric-typewriter keyboards but contain additional keys, such as the command or Windows keys. There is no standard computer keyboard, although many manufacturers imitate the keyboard of PCs. There are actually three different PC keyboards: the original PC keyboard with 84 keys, the AT keyboard also with 84 keys and the enhanced keyboard with 101 keys. The three differ somewhat in the placement of function keys, the control keys, the return key, and the shift key.

1. **LAPTOP-SIZE KEYBOARD**

Keyboards on laptops and notebook computers usually have a shorter travel distance for the keystroke, shorter over travel distance, and a reduced set of keys. They may not have a numeric keypad, and the function keys may be placed in locations that differ from their placement on a standard, full-sized keyboard. The switch mechanism for a laptop keyboard is more likely to be a scissor switch than a rubber dome; this is opposite the trend for full-size keyboards.

1. **FLEXIBLE KEYBOARD**

Flexible keyboards are a junction between normal type and laptop type keyboards: normal from the full arrangement of keys, and laptop from the short key distance. Additionally, the flexibility allows the user to fold/roll the keyboard for better storage and transfer. However, for typing, the keyboard must be resting on a hard surface. The vast majority of flexible keyboards in the market are made from silicone; this material makes them water- and dust-proof. This is useful in hospitals where keyboards are subjected to frequent washing, and other dirty or must-be-clean environments.

1. **HANDHELD KEYBOARDS**

Handheld ergonomic keyboards are designed to be held like a game controller, and can be used as such, instead of laid out flat on top of a table surface.

Typically handheld keyboards hold all the alphanumeric keys and symbols that a standard keyboard would have, yet only be accessed by pressing two sets of keys at once; one acting as a function key similar to a 'Shift' key that would allow for capital letters on a standard keyboard. Handheld keyboards allow the user the ability to move around a room or to lean back on a chair while also being able to type in front or away from the computer. Some variations of handheld ergonomic keyboards also include a trackball mouse that allows mouse movement and typing included in one handheld device.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STANDARD KEYBOARD** | **LAPTOP-SIZE KEYBOARD** | **FLEXIBLE KEYBOARD** | **HANDHELD KEYBOARD** |
| Standard keyboards have all keys | Some laptop keyboards do not have numeric keys | Flexible keyboards have all keys | Handheld keyboards have all keys but are accessed by pressing two sets of keys together. |
| They can be used on any surface | They are integrated in the laptop | They can be used on only hard flat surface because of its rubber material | They can be used and moved anywhere |