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There are two main types of computer keyboards: They are Basic and Extended.

BASIC KEYBOARD

The Basic keyboard contains at most, 110keys and is enough to perform all the functions that can be done on a Windows PC. They range from 80-110keys which include;

Typing keys

A numeric keypad

Function keys

Control keys

The typing keys include the letters of the alphabet, generally laid out in the same pattern used for typewriters. Some people question this story -- whether it's true or not, the QWERTY pattern had long been a standard by the time computer keyboards came around.

The numeric keypad is a more recent addition to the computer keyboard. As the use of computers in businessenvironmentsincreased,sodidtheneedforspeedydataentry.Sincealargepartofthedata was numbers, a set of 17keys, arranged in the same configuration found on adding machines and calculators, was added to the keyboard. In 1986, IBM further extended the basic keyboard with the addition of function and control keys. Applications and operating systems can assign specific commands to the function keys. Control keys provide cursor and screen control. Four arrow keys arranged in an inverted T formation between the typing keys and numeric keypad move the cursor on the screen in small increments.

EXTENDED KEYBOARD The Extended keyboard may have additional keys, and the design varies among the companies manufacturing them. These are usually customized keyboards that are specific to certain operating systems or applications. The best example I can think of, for extended keyboards, is the Windows 8 keyboard designedbyMicrosoftforusewithitsfirst“startscreen”operatingsystem.Itisalsoalarger version of a basic computer keyboardthat has additional function keys which can be assigned to trigger regular actions such as printing, connecting to the internet and file saving. Under the extended we have various designs of keyboards;

1. Flexible Keyboard

2. Ergonomic Keyboard

3. Gaming Keyboard

4. Wireless Keyboard

5. Multimedia/Internet Keyboard

6. Membrane Keyboard

7. Mechanical Keyboard

8. Virtual Keyboard

9. Laptop Keyboard

10. Projection Keyboard

The Major Differences between Basic and Extended Keyboards BASIC KEYBOARD EXTENDED KEYBOARD It contains only 110keys. It contains the basic keys (110keys) and more.

It is not customized for other operating systems,it is only functional for the windows operating system. It is designed and customized to perform on different operating systems

It performs the basic operations of a computer system. It performs more complicated operations. It requires little or no training to use.

It requires training to use

It is less expensive It is expensive