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There are two major types of computer keyboards: **Basic** and **Extended**.

BASIC KEYBOARD

The Basic keyboard contains at most, 110 keys and is enough to perform all the functions that can be done on a Windows PC. They range from 80-110 keys 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. According to legend, this layout, known as **QWERTY** for its first six letters, helped keep mechanical typewriters' metal arms from colliding and jamming as people typed. 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 business environments increased, so did the need for speedy data entry. Since a large part of the data was numbers, a set of 17 keys, 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

designed by Microsoft for use with its first "start screen" operating system. It is also a larger version of a basic computer **keyboard** that 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 110 keys.	It contains the basic keys (110 keys) 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