

# Notebook Glossary

## Bluetooth

Bluetooth is a short-range wireless data transfer technology used in various Bluetooth-supporting devices. These include laptop/notebook computers, cell phones, keyboards and mice. For example, Bluetooth technology can connect a supporting cell phone and notebook to enable Internet access on the go.

## Card Slot

There are two types of card slot in notebook/laptop computers today: PCMCIA and ExpressCard. Both are designed for the connection of expansion devices such as a WLAN (Wireless LAN) card or a card reader.

The ExpressCard is the successor to the PCMCIA Card and is produced in two form factors: ExpressCard|34 (34 mm wide) and ExpressCard|54 (54 mm wide, in an L-shape)

## Hard Drive RPM

The speed at which a hard drive spins is known as the hard drive RPM. Notebook hard drives operate at 4200RPM, 5400RPM or 7200RPM. A faster RPM usually results in higher hard disk performance.

## IEEE 1394

IEEE 1394, also known as FireWire or i.Link, is a widely-adopted serial bus interface/port used to connect peripheral devices. There are two IEEE 1394 standards in use today:

1. IEEE 1394a, offering 400 Mbps bandwidth; also called FireWire 400
2. Generally, IEEE 1394b offers double the bandwidth of IEEE 1394a; and is also known by the name of FireWire 800.

Notebook IEEE 1394 ports are typically IEEE 1394a ports.

## IrDA

Infrared Data Association (IrDA) is general port in most notebook computer. With the IrDA port, users can easily exchange data between two devices with IrDA port. For example, users can send pictures through IrDA port to a mobile phone also built-in IrDA port.

## LAN

A LAN (Local-Area Network) is a computer network that connects PCs, workstations or other

LANs and networks to enable data and device access and sharing. It is used to cover a small local area such as a home, office or small group of buildings. Current LANs are most likely to be Ethernet (wired, mostly use the RJ45 port) or Wi-Fi (wireless) based. Most notebooks feature a built-in LAN adapter, which should be capable of 10/100Mbps, 10/100/1000Mbps, or even 10/100/1000Mbps (Gigabit LAN) data transfer rates.

### **Parallel Port or LPT**

Originally called LPT, the Parallel Port is an interface in a computer system where data is transferred in parallel. It has been replaced by the USB port, and is considered to be a legacy port.

### **Modem**

The modem (short for modulator and demodulator) is a device that connects a computer to a network (such as the Internet) through a telephone line.

### **Optical Drive**

The optical drive is a type of storage device. It uses lasers to read data from optical disc media, of which the CD-ROM and DVD-ROM are the prime examples. Optical drives that are able to write to writable disc media are called writers or burners, examples are the CD-RW, DVD/CD-RW COMBO and DVD burner.

### **Port Replicator**

The Port Replicator is a device featuring a variety of expansion ports such as USB, D-Sub (VGA), PS/2, and audio jacks. The port replicator port on a notebook computer is a special port used to connect the port replicator.

### **Resolution**

The resolution of an LCD screen is the number of physical pixel units on the LCD panel. For example, if an LCD resolution is 1280x1024, it means there are 1280 horizontal pixel rows and 1024 vertical pixel columns for a total of 1,310,720 total physical pixels.

The following screen resolutions are offered in contemporary notebooks:

#### **4:3 Display Standards**

- SVGA: Super Video Graphics Array; Display resolution: 800 x 600
- XGA: Extended Graphics Array; Display resolution: 1024 x 768
- SXGA+: Super Extended Graphics Array; Display resolution: 1400 x 1050
- UXGA: Ultra Extended Graphics Array; Display resolution: 1600 x 1200
- QXGA: Quad Extended Graphics Array; Display resolution: 2048 x 1536

### **Widescreen Display Standards**

- WXGA: Wide Extended Graphics Array; Display resolutions: 1366 x 768, 1280 x 768, 1280 x 800
- WSXGA+: Wide Super Extended Graphics Array; Display resolution: 1680 x 1050
- WUXGA: Wide Ultra Extended Graphics Array; Display resolution: 1920 x 1200

### **Touchpad**

An input device for notebook computers, the Touchpad accepts finger motions as a substitute for computer mouse movement in order to move the onscreen pointer. The Touchpad is typically a rectangular touch-sensitive pad located below the notebook keyboard with mouse buttons below it.

### **TrackPoint / Pointing stick**

The TrackPoint / Pointing stick is a pointing device for notebook computers. It substitutes for a computer mouse and is used to move the onscreen pointer. The TrackPoint is typically placed between the 'G', 'H' and 'B' keys on a standard keyboard. The mouse buttons are located below the keyboard space key.

### **USB**

The USB (Universal Serial Bus) port is a popular I/O interface used for connecting computers and peripherals or other devices. It is capable of supporting up to 127 daisy-chained peripheral devices simultaneously. The latest USB 2.0 specification can deliver 480Mbps data transfer bandwidth.

### **Video Memory**

Video memory (VRAM) is Random access memory for storing video information. There are two types of VRAM: shared and dedicated. Shared VRAM allows the notebook's graphics card to access and share a portion of system memory, while dedicated VRAM are VRAM chips on the notebook motherboard (i.e. memory dedicated for use by the graphics card).

### **Wi-Fi**

Wi-Fi allows you to connect to the internet from virtually anywhere at speeds of up to 54Mbps. Wi-Fi-enabled computers and handsets use radio technologies based on the IEEE 802.11 standard to send and receive data anywhere within the range of a base station.

### **WLAN**

Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN). There are currently three wireless interface standards established by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers):

- **802.11a**  
The 802.11a standard specifies a maximum data transfer rate of 54Mbps and an operating frequency of 5GHz.
  
- **802.11b**  
The 802.11b standard specifies a maximum data transfer rate of 11Mbps and an operating frequency of 2.4GHz.
  
- **802.11g**  
The 802.11g standard specifies a maximum data transfer rate of 54Mbps, an operating frequency of 2.4GHz, and backward compatibility with 802.11b devices.