Port Encyclopedia Article

Port

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Port

In general, a port is an interface on a computer through which the computer, or more precisely the computer's **central processing unit**, may be connected to a device. One type of port is termed an I/O port. I/O refers to Input/Output, the communications **channel** between the computer and the world. It is via the I/O port that **peripherals** such as printers, external floppy disk drives and monitors can be attached to the computer's processor.

The I/O port is a so-called parallel port. A parallel port is a port through which more than one **bit** of information can be transferred at a time. On personal computers, the I/O port is a Centronics interface that utilizes a 25-pin connector. Some I/O connections enable up to seven devices to be connected to a computer through the same port.