

pda

personal digital assistant

switch

screen

control



## Introduction

Paper-and-binder personal organizers are increasingly being supplanted by electronic personal information manager software; some personal organizers attempt to bridge the gap by featuring holders for PDAs.

## Definition

Personal digital assistant, also known as PDA, is an electronic device which can include some of the functionality of a computer, a cellphone, a camera, a video recorder, and a music player.

## History of PDA

For many years, organizers have been a great tool to record personal notes and keep track on date. With the creation of PDA, the traditional way has been substituted. The term “personal digital assistant” was coined on January 7, 1992 by Apple computer CEO John Sculley at the consumer electronics show in Las Vegas, Nevada, referring to the Apple Newton. In 1989, the Atari Portfolio, although technically classed as a palmtop, was an early harbinger imitating the form of some of the more modern pocket devices. Earlier devices like the psion and sharp wizard already had the functionality to be considered as PDA.



January 7, 1992

## Functions

Personal digital assistants, usually abbreviated as PDA, are handheld devices that were originally designed as personal organizers, but they became much more versatile over the years. The many uses and tasks of a basic PDA include many features: calculator, clock, calendar, computer games, Internet access, sending and receiving e-mails, video recording, address book, and spreadsheet.

Many original PDA, such as the Palm Pilot, featured touch screens for user interaction, having only a few buttons usually reserved for shortcuts to often used programs. Touch screen PDA usually have a detachable stylus that can be used on the touch screen. Interaction is then done by tapping the screen to activate buttons or menu choices, and dragging the stylus to, for example, highlight text.

Another important functionality for PDA is the possibility of synchronizing data with a contact database, such as Microsoft Outlook or ACT!, hosted on a Personal Computer or a corporate server or servers. The data synchronized ensures that the PDA has an accurate list of contacts, appointments and e-mail, allowing users to access the same information on the PDA as the host computer.

## Electronic Organizer

With the help of technology, many PDAs come with variety of functions, sizes, and styles. There are many functions in a PDA that the traditional organizers do not have. One of the advantages of a PDA is its storage. Although the size of a PDA seems small, it has an enormous memory to store notes, images, music, and video. One can also have Internet access with a PDA. The price may be less affordable, but the power of a PDA cannot be denied.

## Traditional Organizer

A personal organizer, day planner, or personal planner is a small book usually containing a calendar, address book, and ruled pages in which one may record notes. One of the advantages of a traditional organizer is having the availability to access the information without electricity. The average price of an organizer is way lower than a high tech palm. However, an organizer needs to be replaced every year with a new set of calendar, and the pages inside a traditional organizer can only be written on once.

## Popular Consumer PDAs

- Amida
- Apple Newton
- BlackBerry
- Dell Axim
- HP iPac
- Palm Pilot
- Psion
- Sony CLIE



© tomlee photo

● Pocket PC by HP



© jesse9599 photo

● Datebook

## References

- www.wikipedia.org
- www.flickr.com

# New Menu



Digital–Analog Design Punch Cards is a set of research cards designed and produced by the students of DSGD 186, Digital Applications Methodology, a third-year graphic design course at San Jose State University, Fall 2006. The set, composed of 1+26 cards, is by no means complete. Each topic was chosen and researched by the students, based on a theme presented by the instructor Pino Trogu, with help from Mauro Panzeri. This is card number 11 and it was designed by **Bethanny Tsui**.



DSGD 186  
Digital Applications  
Methodology  
School of Art and Design  
San Jose State University  
California, USA - October 2006  
Digital–Analog Card No. 11  
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