

begins the reset operation, which is similar to a power-on reset. The keyboard clears the output buffer and sets up default values for typematic and delay rates.

Resend (Hex FE)

The system can send this command when it detects an error in any transmission from the keyboard. It can be sent only after a keyboard transmission and before the system enables the interface to allow the next keyboard output. Upon receipt of Resend, the keyboard sends the previous output again unless the previous output was Resend. In this case, the keyboard will resend the last byte before the Resend command.

No-Operation (NOP) (Hex FD through F7)

These commands are reserved and are effectively no-operation or NOP. The system does not use these codes. If sent, the keyboard will acknowledge the command and continue in its prior scanning state. No other operation will occur.

Set Default (Hex F6)

The Set Default command resets all conditions to the power-on default state. The keyboard responds with 'ACK', clears its output buffer, sets default conditions, and continues scanning (only if the keyboard was previously enabled).

Default Disable (Hex F5)

This command is similar to Set Default, except the keyboard stops scanning and awaits further instructions.

Enable (Hex F4)

Upon receipt of this command, the keyboard responds with 'ACK', clears its output buffer, and starts scanning.

Keyboard Data Output

When the keyboard is ready to send data, it first checks for a keyboard-inhibit or system request-to-send status on the 'clock' and 'data' lines. If the 'clock' line is low (inhibit status), data is stored in the keyboard buffer. If the 'clock' line is high and 'data' is low (request-to-send), data is stored in the keyboard buffer, and the keyboard receives system data.

If 'clock' and 'data' are both high, the keyboard sends the 0 start bit, 8 data bits, the parity bit and the stop bit. Data will be valid before the falling edge and beyond the rising edge of 'clock'. During transmission, the keyboard checks the 'clock' line for a positive level at least every 60 milliseconds. If the system lowers the 'clock' line from a positive level after the keyboard starts sending data, a condition known as *line contention* occurs, and the keyboard stops sending data. If line contention occurs before the rising edge of the tenth clock (parity bit), the keyboard buffer returns the 'data' and 'clock' lines to a positive level. If contention does not occur by the tenth clock, the keyboard completes the transmission.

Following a transmission, the system can inhibit the keyboard until the system processes the input or until it requests that a response be sent.

Keyboard Data Input

When the system is ready to send data to the keyboard, it first checks if the keyboard is sending data. If the keyboard is sending but has not reached the tenth clock, the system can override the keyboard output by forcing the 'clock' line to a negative level. If the keyboard transmission is beyond the tenth clock, the system must receive the transmission.

If the keyboard is not sending, or if the system elects to override the keyboard's output, the system forces the 'clock' line to a negative level for more than 60 microseconds while preparing to send. When the system is ready to send the start bit ('data' line will be low), it allows the 'clock' line to go to a positive level.

The keyboard checks the state of the 'clock' line at intervals of no less than 60 milliseconds. If a request-to-send is detected, the keyboard counts 11 bits. After the tenth bit, the keyboard forces the 'data' line low and counts one more (the stop bit). This action signals the system that the keyboard has received its data. Upon receipt of this signal, the system returns to a ready state, in which it can accept keyboard output, or goes to the inhibited state until it is ready.

Each system command or data transmission to the keyboard requires a response from the keyboard before the system can send its next output. The keyboard will respond within 20 milliseconds unless the system prevents keyboard output. If the keyboard response is invalid or has a parity error, the system sends the command or data again. A Resend command should not be sent in this case.

Keyboard Layout

The IBM Personal Computer AT Keyboard is available in six different layouts:

- U.S. English
- U.K. English
- French
- German
- Italian
- Spanish

The following pages show all six possible keyboard layouts.