**Section 3: Rear Side Connectors**

**8.**

A PS/2 port is a 6-pin mini-DIN connector originally developed by IBM for connecting keyboards and mice to a computer. It was introduced with the IBM Personal System/2 (PS/2) series in 1987. Historically, the PS/2 port was significant because it standardized how peripherals like keyboards and mice were connected, offering a more reliable and simpler connection compared to earlier serial and parallel connections. Typically, the purple PS/2 port was for keyboards and the green one for mice. Although modern computers now mostly use USB interfaces, PS/2 ports are still sometimes found on business or legacy systems because they offer lower CPU usage and allow input devices to work even during the early stages of boot-up, (M. Rouse, 2019) alluded.

**9.**

A parallel port is an interface found on computers for connecting peripherals. It transfers multiple bits of data simultaneously (hence "parallel") across multiple wires. It was most commonly used to connect printers, particularly in the 1980s and 1990s, and was often called the "printer port" or "LPT port." Besides printers, it was also occasionally used for scanners and external storage devices. The port allowed faster communication compared to serial ports at the time, making it very popular until USB interfaces gradually replaced it due to higher speed and flexibility, (L. Gralla ,2020).

**10.**

A serial port is a communication interface through which data is transferred one bit at a time over a single communication line. It was widely used for connecting modems, mice, and older networking equipment like console cables for routers. Unlike parallel ports that send multiple bits simultaneously, serial ports send bits sequentially, making them slower in data transfer speed but more reliable over longer distances. Serial ports, often recognized as COM ports (e.g., COM1, COM2), are more durable for long-term data transfer, especially where simple, consistent communication is needed (J. Andrews, 2022).

**Discussion:**

The rear side connectors like PS/2, parallel, and serial ports played crucial roles in the historical development of personal computers. They enabled the attachment of essential peripherals, allowing computers to become highly functional machines for both personal and business use. Understanding these ports provides insights into how computer technology has evolved towards more efficient, faster, and user-friendly interfaces like USB and wireless technologies today. While mostly replaced, legacy systems still rely on these connectors, and knowledge of their use can assist IT technicians in maintaining older equipment or in troubleshooting mixed-technology environments.

**References:**

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Rouse, M. (2019) 'PS/2 port', TechTarget. Available at: https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/PS-2-port (Accessed: 26 April 2025).