ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A PCMCIA smart card reader that is insertable in a card slot of a computer device, to enable reading of a smart card. The smart card reader includes a support member that mechanically supports an upper section and a lower section of the PCMCIA smart card reader. The support member is positioned within the card slot when the PCMCIA smart card reader is inserted in the card slot, and is therefore less prone to damage during transport of the computer device. The support member guides insertion of the smart card within the smart card reader. In addition, a reading member of the PCMCIA smart card reader has a back portion that limits the distance that the smart card is inserted in the PCMCIA smart card reader, and a smart card contact of the reading member is positioned at the upper section of the PCMCIA smart card reader. A removable extension may also be provided which has an upper surface that is positioned in substantially the same plane as an upper surface of a lower section of the PCMCIA smart card reader so that the removable extension guides insertion of the smart card within the PCMCIA smart card reader. By limiting the distance that the smart card must be inserted, and since the smart card contact is integral with the upper section of the smart card reader, space is made available in the PCMCIA smart card to allow for additional electronics.

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