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THE COMPREHENSIVE
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Microsoft
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SECOND EDITION



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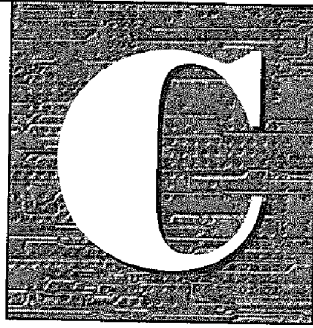
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C A programming language developed by Dennis Ritchie at Bell Laboratories in 1972; so named because its immediate predecessor was the B programming language. Although C is considered by many to be more a machine-independent assembly language than a high-level language, its close association with the UNIX operating system, its enormous popularity, and its standardization by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) have made it perhaps the closest thing to a standard programming language in the microcomputer/workstation marketplace. C is a compiled language that contains a small set of built-in functions that are machine dependent. The rest of the C functions are machine independent and are contained in libraries that can be accessed from C programs. C programs are composed of one or more functions defined by the programmer; thus C is a structured programming language. *See also* C++, compiled language, library, Objective-C, structured programming.

C++ An object-oriented version of the C programming language, developed by Bjarne Stroustrup in the early 1980s at Bell Laboratories and adopted by a number of vendors, including Apple Computer and Sun Microsystems. *See also* C, Objective-C, object-oriented programming.

cable A collection of wires shielded within a protective tube, used to connect peripheral devices to a computer. A mouse, a keyboard, and a printer might all be connected to a computer with cables. Printer cables typically implement a serial (bit-by-bit) or a parallel (byte-by-byte) path for data to travel along. Computer cables are of different sizes and connect the parts of a system

through a seeming myriad of round and oblong connectors. The pins and sockets in these connectors carry specific signals and are used to link specific types of hardware.

cable connector The connector on either end of a cable. *See also* DB connector, DIN connector, RS-232-C standard, RS-422/423/449.

cable matcher A device that allows the use of a cable that has slightly different wire connections from those required by the device(s) to which it is attached.

cabling diagram A plan that shows the path of cables that attach computer system components or peripherals. Cabling diagrams are particularly important for explaining the connection of disk drives to a disk controller.

cache A special memory subsystem in which frequently used data values are duplicated for quick access. A memory cache stores the contents of frequently accessed RAM locations and the addresses where these data items are stored. When the processor references an address in memory, the cache checks to see whether it holds that address. If it does hold the address, the data is returned to the processor; if it doesn't, a regular memory access occurs. A cache is useful when RAM accesses are slow compared with the microprocessor speed because cache memory is always faster than main RAM memory. *See also* disk cache, wait state.

cache memory *See* cache.

CAD Rhymes with "lad." Acronym for computer-aided design, a term applied to programs (and workstations) used in designing engineering, architectural, and scientific models ranging from