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disk drives that have been defined to the system and can be made active.

margin *n.* In printing, those portions of a page—top, bottom, and sides—outside the main body of text.

mark *n.* **1.** In applications and data storage, a symbol or other device used to distinguish one item from others like it. **2.** In digital transmission, the state of a communications line (positive or negative) corresponding to a binary 1. In asynchronous serial communications, a mark condition is the continuous transmission of binary 1s to indicate when the line is idle (not carrying information). In asynchronous error checking, setting the parity bit to 1 in each group of transmitted bits is known as mark parity. *See also* parity. **3.** In optical sensing, a pencil line, as on a voting form or an IQ test, that can be recognized by an optical reader.

marker *n.* **1.** Part of a data communications signal that enables the communications equipment to recognize the structure of the message. Examples are the start and stop bits that frame a byte in asynchronous serial communications. **2.** A symbol that indicates a particular location on a display surface.

Mark I *n.* **1.** An electromechanical calculating machine designed in the late 1930s and early 1940s by Howard Aiken of Harvard University and built by IBM. *Also called* Automatic Sequence Controlled Calculator, Harvard Mark I. **2.** The first fully electronic stored-program computer, designed and built at Manchester University in England. It successfully executed its first program in June 1948. **3.** The first commercial computer, which was based on the Manchester Mark I and released in 1951.

markup language *n.* A set of codes in a text file that instruct a computer how to format it on a printer or video display or how to index and link its contents. Examples of markup languages are Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) and Extensible Markup Language (XML), which are used in Web pages, and Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), which is used for typesetting and desktop publishing purposes and in electronic documents. Markup languages of this sort are designed to enable documents and other files to be platform-independent and highly portable between applications. *See also* HTML, SGML, XML.

marquee *n.* A nonstandard HTML extension that causes scrolling text to appear as part of a Web

page. Currently, marquees are viewable only with Internet Explorer. *See also* HTML, Internet Explorer, Web page.

mask *n.* **1.** A binary value used to selectively screen out or let through certain bits in a data value. Masking is performed by using a logical operator (AND, OR, XOR, NOT) to combine the mask and the data value. For example, the mask 00111111, when used with the AND operator, removes (masks off) the two uppermost bits in a data value but does not affect the rest of the value. *See also* logical operator, mask bit. **2.** In television and display technology, a thin perforated sheet of metal or a close-set series of metal strips on the surface of the screen that helps create a clear, sharp image by ensuring that the electron beam for a particular color (red, blue, or green) strikes only the phosphor it is intended to illuminate, while the phosphors for the other colors are shadowed by the mask. Three types of mask are in use: a shadow mask, with round perforations; an aperture grill, with vertical stripes; and a slot mask, with elliptical openings. *See also* aperture mask, shadow mask, slot mask.

11010101	Data value
<u>AND 00111111</u>	Mask
00010101	Resulting value

Mask.

maskable interrupt *n.* A hardware interrupt that can be temporarily disabled (masked) during periods when a program needs the full attention of the microprocessor. *See also* external interrupt, hardware interrupt, interrupt. *Compare* nonmaskable interrupt.

mask bit *n.* A given bit within a binary mask whose function is to screen out or let through the corresponding bit in a data value when the mask is used in an expression with a logical operator. *See also* mask (definition 1).

masking *n.* The process of using the *mask* operation to perform operations on bits, bytes, or words of data. *See also* mask (definition 1).

mask off *vb.* To use a mask to remove bits from a byte of data. *See also* mask (definition 1).

massively parallel processing *n.* A computer architecture in which each of a large number of processors has its own RAM, which contains a copy of the operating system, a copy of the application code, and its own part of the data, on which that processor works