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Notes

Bookmarks

Search

Contents

Wdeeh#ri#Frqwhqwv

Copyright

Lqwurgxfwlrq

Qxp ehuv#dqg#V|p erov

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

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can be, and usually is, regarded as a tree. The individual records are not necessarily contained in the same file. *See also* **tree**.

Hierarchical Storage Management *n. See* **HSM**.

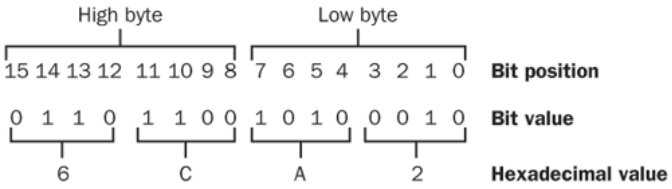
hierarchy *n.* A type of organization that, like a tree, branches into more specific units, each of which is "owned" by the higher-level unit immediately above. Hierarchies are characteristic of several aspects of computing because they provide organizational frameworks that can reflect logical links, or relationships, between separate records, files, or pieces of equipment. For example, hierarchies are used in organizing related files on a disk, related records in a database, and related (interconnected) devices on a network. In applications such as spreadsheets, hierarchies of a sort are used to establish the order of precedence in which arithmetic operations are to be performed by the computer. *See also* **hierarchical file system**.

high availability *n.* The ability of a system or device to be usable when it is needed. When expressed as a percentage, high availability is the actual service time divided by the required service time. Although high availability does not guarantee that a system will have no downtime, a network often is considered highly available if it achieves 99.999 percent network uptime. *Also called:* RAS (reliability/availability/serviceability), fault resilience. *See also* **five-nines availability**, **four-nines availability**, **three-nines availability**, **two-nines availability**. *Compare* **fault tolerance**.

High-bit-rate Digital Subscriber Line *n. See* **HDSL**.

high byte *n.* The byte containing the most significant bits (bits 8 through 15) in a 2-byte grouping representing a 16-bit (bits 0 through 15) value. See the illustration. *See also* **hexadecimal**.

High byte. *The high byte is binary 01101100 or hexadecimal 6C or decimal 108.*



high-capacity CD-ROM *n. See* **digital video disc**.

High Contrast *n.* An accessibility display feature in Microsoft Windows that instructs programs to use the color scheme specified in the Settings dialog box and to increase legibility whenever possible.

High-data-rate Digital Subscriber Line *n. See* **HDSL**.

High-Definition Television *n. See* **HDTV**.

high-density disk *n.* **1.** A 3.5-inch floppy disk that can hold 1.44 MB. *Compare* **double-density disk**. **2.** A 5.25-inch floppy disk that can hold 1.2 MB. *Compare* **double-density disk**.

high DOS memory *n. See* **high memory**.

high-end *adj.* A descriptive term for something that uses the latest technology to maximize performance. There is usually a direct correlation between high-end technology and higher prices.

High-level Data Link Control *n. See* **HDLC**.

high-level language *n.* A computer language that provides a level of abstraction from the underlying machine language. Statements in a high-level language generally use keywords similar to English and translate into more than one machine-language instruction. In practice, every computer language above assembly language is a high-level language. *Acronym:* HLL. *Also called:* high-order language. *Compare* **assembly language**.

highlight *vb.* To alter the appearance of displayed characters as a means of calling attention to them, as by displaying them in reverse video (light on dark rather than dark on light, and vice versa) or with greater intensity. Highlighting is used to indicate an item, such as an option on a menu or text in a word processor, that is to be acted on in some way.

high memory *n.* **1.** Memory locations addressed by the largest numbers. **2.** In IBM PCs and compatibles, the range of addresses between 640 kilobytes and 1 megabyte, used primarily for the ROM BIOS and control hardware such as the video adapter and input/output ports. *Compare* **low memory**.

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nixpub*n.* A list of ISPs (Internet service providers) available in the newsgroups comp.bbs.misc and alt.bbs. *See also***ISP**.

NKE*n.* Acronym for **N**etwork **K**ernel **E**xtension. A modification or extension of the Mac OS X networking infrastructure. NKEs may be loaded or unloaded dynamically, without recompiling the kernel or without the need to reboot the system. NKEs allow the creation and configuration of protocol stacks and modules that may monitor or modify network traffic or add other networking features to the kernel.

NL*n. See***newline character**.

NLQ*n. See***near-letter-quality**.

NLS*n. See***natural language support**.

NMI*n. See***nonmaskable interrupt**.

NMOS or **N-MOS***n.* Acronym for **N**-channel **m**etal-**o**xide **s**emiconductor. A semiconductor technology in which the conduction channel in MOSFETs is formed by the movement of electrons rather than holes (electron "vacancies" created as electrons move from atom to atom). Because electrons move faster than holes, NMOS is faster than PMOS, although it is more difficult and more expensive to fabricate. *See also***MOS**, **MOSFET**, **N-type semiconductor**. *Compare***CMOS**, **PMOS**.

NNTP*n.* Acronym for **N**etwork **N**ews **T**ransfer **P**rotocol. A de facto protocol standard on the Internet used to distribute news articles and query news servers.

NOC*n. See***network operation center**.

node*n.* **1.** A junction of some type. **2.** In networking, a device, such as a client computer, a server, or a shared printer, that is connected to the network and is capable of communicating with other network devices. **3.** In tree structures, a location on the tree that can have links to one or more nodes below it. Some authors make a distinction between node and element, with an element being a given data type and a node comprising one or more elements as well as any supporting data structures. *See also***element (definition 1)**, **graph**, **pointer (definition 1)**, **queue**, **stack**, **tree**.

noise*n.* **1.** Any interference that affects the operation of a device. **2.** Unwanted electrical signals, produced either naturally or by the circuitry, that distort or degrade the quality or performance of a communications channel. *See also***distortion**.

nonbreaking space*n.* A character that replaces the standard space character in order to keep two words together on one line rather than allowing a line to break between them.

noncompetes*n.* An agreement between employer and employee that states that the employee will not accept work with a competing company for a specified length of time after leaving the employer's company. Noncompete agreements are common in high-tech companies and are typically requested to help maintain company secrets and retain valuable employees.

nonconductor*n. See***insulator**.

noncontiguous data structure*n.* In programming, a data structure whose elements are not stored contiguously in memory. Data structures such as graphs and trees, whose elements are connected by pointers, are noncontiguous data structures. *Compare***contiguous data structure**.

nondedicated server*n.* A computer on a network that can function as both a client and a server; typically, a desktop machine on a peer-to-peer network. *Compare***dedicated server**.

nondestructive readout*n.* A reading operation that does not destroy the data read, either because the storage technology is capable of retaining the data or because the reading operation is accompanied by a data refresh (update) function. *Acronym:* NDR, NDRO. *Compare***destructive read**.

nonexecutable statement*n.* **1.** A program statement that cannot be executed because it lies outside the flow of execution through the program. For example, a statement immediately following a *return()* statement but before the end of the block in C is nonexecutable. **2.** A type definition, variable declaration, preprocessor command, comment, or other statement in a program that is not translated into executable machine code.

nonimpact printer*n.* Any printer that makes marks on the paper without striking it mechanically. The most common types are ink-jet, thermal, and laser printers. *See also***ink-jet printer**, **laser printer**, **thermal printer**. *Compare***impact printer**.

noninterlaced*adj.* Pertaining to a display method on raster-scan monitors in which the electron beam scans each line of the screen once during each refresh cycle. *Compare***interlaced**.

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