

F I F T H E D I T I O N

THE COMPUTER GLOSSARY

The Complete Illustrated Desk Reference



ALAN FREEDMAN

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DECsystem

(1) A series of RISC-based, 32-bit computers from Digital Equipment Corporation that run under ULTRIX. Introduced in 1989, the 5400 model is a Q-bus system; the 5800 model uses the XMI bus.

(2) A series of mainframes from Digital that were introduced from 1974 through 1980 and were the successor to the 36-bit PDP-10 computers.

DECtalk A voice synthesizing system from Digital Equipment Corporation that accepts serial ASCII text and converts it into audible speech. It is used in Touch-tone telephone response systems as well as for voice-output for visually handicapped users.

dedicated channel A computer channel or communications line that is used for one purpose.

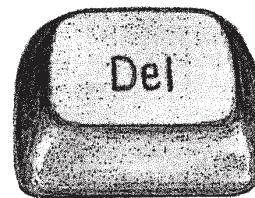
dedicated service A service that is not shared by other users or organizations.

default A standard setting or action taken by hardware or software if the user has not specified otherwise. For example, defaults in word processing programs define the margins, tabs and page length, all of which can be changed by the user.

defragment To reorganize the disk by putting files back into a contiguous order.

degausser A device that removes unwanted magnetism from a monitor or the read/write head in a disk or tape drive.

DEL key (DELEte key) A keyboard key used to delete the character under the screen cursor or some other block of data. It is often used in combination with the shift, control and alt keys to delete various text segments.



delay line A communications or electronic circuit that has a built-in delay. Acoustic delay lines were used to create the earliest computer memories. For example, the UNIVAC I used tubes of liquid mercury that would slow down the digital pulses long enough (a fraction of a second) to serve as storage.

delete To remove an item of data from a file or to remove a file from the disk. See *undelete*.