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# Computer Dictionary

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**PUBLISHED BY**

Microsoft Press  
A Division of Microsoft Corporation  
One Microsoft Way  
Redmond, Washington 98052-6399

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
Microsoft Computer Dictionary.--5th ed.

p. cm.  
ISBN 0-7356-1495-4  
1. Computers--Dictionaries. 2. Microcomputers--Dictionaries.

AQ76.5. M52267 2002  
004'.03--dc21

200219714

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 QWT 7 6 5 4 3 2

Distributed in Canada by H.B. Fenn and Company Ltd.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Microsoft Press books are available through booksellers and distributors worldwide. For further information about international editions, contact your local Microsoft Corporation office or contact Microsoft Press International directly at fax (425) 936-7329. Visit our Web site at [www.microsoft.com/mspress](http://www.microsoft.com/mspress). Send comments to [mspinput@microsoft.com](mailto:mspinput@microsoft.com).

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**decollate** *vb.* To separate copies in a multipart continuous paper form.

**decompiler** *n.* A program that attempts to generate high-level source code from assembly language code or machine code. This can be a difficult task, as some assembly language code has no corresponding high-level source code. *See also* disassembler. *Compare* compiler (definition 2).

**decompress** *vb.* *See* uncompress.

**decrement<sup>1</sup>** *n.* The amount by which a number is decreased. *Compare* increment<sup>1</sup>.

**decrement<sup>2</sup>** *vb.* To decrease a number by a given amount. *Compare* increment<sup>2</sup>.

**decryption** *n.* The process of restoring encrypted data to its original form. *See also* data encryption key. *Compare* encryption.

**deCSS** *n.* Decrypt CSS. A utility capable of cracking the CSS encryption system used on DVD discs. By decrypting the CSS code, DVD movies and other copyrighted material can be used with any DVD playback device without regard to license or region coding. The origin of deCSS can be traced to a number of individuals interested in creating a DVD player for the Linux OS. The term deCSS is sometimes used generically for any software capable of defeating CSS technology. *See also* CSS, region code.

**DECstation** *n.* **1.** A small computer system used primarily for word processing, introduced by Digital Equipment Corporation in 1978. **2.** A personal computer, part of a series, introduced by Digital Equipment Corporation in 1989. **3.** A single-user UNIX workstation introduced by Digital Equipment Corporation in 1989 and based on RISC processors. *See also* RISC.

**dedicated** *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or being a device, program, or procedure devoted to a single task or function.

**dedicated channel** *n.* A communications link reserved for a particular use or a particular user.

**dedicated circuit** *n.* *See* dedicated line.

**dedicated connection** *n.* *See* dedicated line.

**dedicated line** *n.* **1.** A communications channel that permanently connects two or more locations. Dedicated lines are private or leased lines, rather than public ones. T1 lines, which are used by many organizations for Internet connectivity, are examples of dedicated lines. *Also called:* dedicated connection, leased line, private line. *Compare* switched line. **2.** A telephone line that is used for

one purpose only, such as to receive or send faxes or to serve as a modem line.

**dedicated server** *n.* A computer—usually quite powerful—that is used solely as a network server. *See also* server. *Compare* nondedicated server.

**deep copy** *n.* A copy of the contents of a data structure, including all its substructures.

**deep hack** *n.* A state of total concentration on and preoccupation with a programming effort. *Also called:* deep hack mode.

**de facto standard** *n.* A design, program, or language that has become so widely used and imitated that it has little competition, but whose status has not been officially recognized as standard by an organization such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). *See also* standard. *Compare* de jure standard.

**default<sup>1</sup>** *n.* A choice made by a program when the user does not specify an alternative. Defaults are built into a program when a value or option must be assumed for the program to function.

**default<sup>2</sup>** *vb.* In reference to programs, to make a choice when the user does not specify an alternative.

**default button** *n.* The control that is automatically selected when a window is introduced by an application or operating system, typically activated by pressing the Enter key.

**default drive** *n.* The disk drive that an operating system reads to and writes from when no alternative is specified.

**default home page** *n.* On a Web server, the file that is returned when a directory is referenced without a specific filename. This is specified by the Web server software and is typically the file called index.html or index.htm.

**default printer** *n.* The printer to which a computer sends documents for printing unless an alternative is specified.

**Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency** *n.* The U.S. government agency that provided the original support for the development of the interconnected networks that later grew into the Internet. *Acronym:* DARPA. *See also* ARPANET.

**deferral time** *n.* The length of time that nodes on a CSMA/CD network wait before trying to retransmit after a collision. *See also* CSMA/CD.