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B

burn in *vb.* **1.** To keep a new system or device running continuously so that any weak elements or components will fail early and can be found and corrected before the system becomes an integral part of the user's work routine. Such a test is often performed at the factory before a device is shipped. **2.** To make a permanent change in the phosphor coating on the inside of a monitor screen by leaving the monitor on and keeping a bright, unchanging image on the screen for extended periods. Such an image will remain visible after the monitor is turned off. Burning in was a danger with older PC monitors; it is no longer a concern with most new PC monitors. *Also called* ghosting.

burst¹ *n.* Transfer of a block of data all at one time without a break. Certain microprocessors and certain buses have features that support various types of burst transfers. *See also* burst speed (definition 1).

burst² *vb.* To break fanfold continuous-feed paper apart at its perforations, resulting in a stack of separate sheets.

burster *n.* A device used to burst, or break apart at the perforations, fanfold continuous-feed paper.

burst extended-data-out RAM *n.* *See* BEDO RAM.

burst mode *n.* A method of data transfer in which information is collected and sent as a unit in one high-speed transmission. In burst mode, an input/output device takes control of a multiplexer channel for the time required to send its data. In effect, the multiplexer, which normally merges input from several sources into a single high-speed data stream, becomes a channel dedicated to the needs of one device until the entire transmission has been sent. Burst mode is used both in communications and between devices in a computer system. *See also* burst¹.

burst rate *n.* *See* burst speed (definition 1).

burst speed *n.* **1.** The fastest speed at which a device can operate without interruption. For example, various communications devices (as on networks) can send data in bursts, and the speed of such equipment is sometimes measured as the burst speed (the speed of data transfer while the burst is being executed). *Also called* burst rate. **2.** The number of characters per second that a printer can print on one line without a carriage return or linefeed. Burst speed measures the actual speed of printing, without consideration of the time taken to advance paper or to move the print head back to the left margin. Al-

most always, the speed claimed by the manufacturer is the burst speed. By contrast, *throughput* is the number of characters per second when one or more entire pages of text are being printed and is a more practical measurement of printer speed in real-life situations.

bursty *adj.* Transmitting data in spurts, or bursts, rather than in a continuous stream.

bus *n.* A set of hardware lines (conductors) used for data transfer among the components of a computer system. A bus is essentially a shared highway that connects different parts of the system—including the processor, disk-drive controller, memory, and input/output ports—and enables them to transfer information. The bus consists of specialized groups of lines that carry different types of information. One group of lines carries data; another carries memory addresses (locations) where data items are to be found; yet another carries control signals. Buses are characterized by the number of bits they can transfer at a single time, equivalent to the number of wires within the bus. A computer with a 32-bit address bus and a 16-bit data bus, for example, can transfer 16 bits of data at a time from any of 2³² memory locations. Most PCs contain one or more expansion slots into which additional boards can be plugged to connect them to the bus.

bus enumerator *n.* A device driver that identifies devices located on a specific bus and assigns a unique identification code to each device. The bus enumerator is responsible for loading information about the devices onto the hardware tree. *See also* bus, device driver, hardware tree.

bus extender *n.* **1.** A device that expands the capacity of a bus. For example, IBM PC/AT computers used a bus extender to add onto the earlier PC bus and allow the use of 16-bit expansion boards in addition to 8-bit boards. *See also* bus. **2.** A special board used by engineers to raise an add-on board above the computer's cabinet, making it easier to work on the circuit board.

business graphics *n.* *See* presentation graphics.

business information system *n.* A combination of computers, printers, communications equipment, and other devices designed to handle data. A completely automated business information system receives, processes, and stores data; transfers information as needed; and produces reports or printouts on de-

digital audio/video connector

digital audio/video connector *n.* An interface on some high-end video cards or TV tuner cards that allows the simultaneous transmission of digital audio and video signals. *Also called* DAV connector. *See also* interface (definition 3), video adapter.

digital broadcast satellite *n.* *See* direct broadcast satellite.

digital camera *n.* A type of camera that stores photographed images electronically instead of on traditional film. A digital camera uses a CCD (charge-coupled device) element to capture the image through the lens when the operator releases the shutter in the camera; circuitry within the camera then stores the image captured by the CCD in a storage medium such as solid-state memory or a hard disk. After the image has been captured, it is downloaded by cable to the computer using software supplied with the camera. Once stored in the computer, the image can be manipulated and processed much like the image from a scanner or related input device. *See also* charge-coupled device.

digital cash *n.* *See* e-money.

digital certificate *n.* **1.** An assurance that software downloaded from the Internet comes from a reputable source. A digital certificate provides information about the software—such as the identity of the author and the date on which the software was registered with a certificate authority (CA), as well as a measure of tamper-resistance. **2.** A user identity card or “driver’s license” for cyberspace. Issued by a certificate authority (CA), a digital certificate is an electronic credential that authenticates a user on the Internet and intranets. Digital certificates ensure the legitimate online transfer of confidential information, money, or other sensitive materials by means of public encryption technology. A digital certificate holder has two keys (strings of numbers): a private key held only by the user, for “signing” outgoing messages and decrypting incoming messages; and a public key, for use by anyone, for encrypting data to send to a specific user. *See also* certificate authority, encryption, private key, public key.

digital communications *n.* Exchange of communications in which all information is transmitted in binary-encoded (digital) form.

digital computer *n.* A computer in which operations are based on two or more discrete states. Binary digital computers are based on two states, logical “on” and

“off,” represented by two voltage levels, arrangements of which are used to represent all types of information—numbers, letters, graphics symbols, and program instructions. Within such a computer, the states of various circuit components change continuously to move, operate on, and save this information. *Compare* analog computer.

Digital Darkroom *n.* A Macintosh program developed by Silicon Beach Software for enhancement of black-and-white photographs or scanned images.

digital data service *n.* *See* DDS:

digital data transmission *n.* The transfer of information encoded as a series of bits rather than as a fluctuating (analog) signal in a communications channel.

digital display *n.* A video display capable of rendering only a fixed number of colors or gray shades. Examples of digital displays are IBM’s Monochrome Display, Color/Graphics Display, and Enhanced Color Display. *See also* CGA, EGA, MDA. *Compare* analog display.

digital DNA *n.* **1.** Broadly, a reference to the bits that comprise digital information. **2.** In the gaming world, a technology called “Cyberlife” that mimics biological DNA in the creation and development of trainable creatures known as Norns. Like real DNA, digital DNA is passed from parent to offspring and determines the artificial creature’s characteristics and adaptability.

digital flat panel port *n.* An interface designed to allow direct connection between a flat panel monitor and a computer without requiring an analog-to-digital conversion. *Acronym* DFP.

digital light processing projector *n.* *See* DLP projector.

digital line *n.* A communications line that carries information only in binary-encoded (digital) form. To minimize distortion and noise interference, a digital line uses repeaters to regenerate the signal periodically during transmission. *See also* repeater. *Compare* analog line.

digital linear tape *n.* A magnetic storage medium used to back up data. Digital linear tape allows for faster transfer of data compared with other tape technologies. *Acronym:* DLT.

Digital Micromirror Device *n.* The circuit technology behind Texas Instruments’ Digital Light Processing, used in image projectors. A Digital Micromirror

D

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