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# Microsoft® Computer Dictionary

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A

**Apple Events** *n.* A feature added to Mac OS System 7 that enables one application to send a command, such as save or open, to another application. *See also* Mac OS.

**Apple Extended Keyboard** *n.* A 105-key keyboard that works with the Macintosh SE, Macintosh II, and Apple IIGS computers. This keyboard marks Apple's first inclusion of function (F) keys, whose absence was long cited as a shortcoming of the Macintosh compared with IBM PCs and compatibles. This feature, along with other layout changes and the addition of new keys and lights, makes the Apple Extended Keyboard quite similar in form to the IBM enhanced keyboard. *See the illustration. See also* enhanced keyboard.

**Apple II** *n.* The second computer introduced by the Apple Computer Corporation, in April 1977. The Apple II featured 4K dynamic RAM, expandable to 48K (with 16K chips), and used the 6502 microprocessor. The Apple II was the first computer to offer a TV video adapter as an optional alternative to a color computer monitor. It also featured sound and eight expansion slots. *See also* 6502.

**Apple key** *n.* A key on Apple keyboards labeled with an outline of the Apple logo. On the Apple Extended Keyboard, this key is the same as the Command key, which functions similarly to the Control key on IBM and compatible keyboards. It is generally used in conjunction with a character key as a shortcut to making menu selections or starting a macro.

**Apple Macintosh** *n.* *See* Macintosh.

**Apple Newton** *n.* *See* Newton.

**AppleScript** *n.* A script language developed by Apple Computer, Inc., for Macintosh computers running under the Mac OS to execute commands and automate functions. *See also* script.

**AppleShare** *n.* A file server software developed by Apple Computer, Inc., that works with the Mac OS and allows one Macintosh computer to share files with another on the same network. *See also* file server, Mac OS.

**applet** *\a'plət\ n.* A program that can be downloaded over the Internet and executed on the recipient's machine. Applets are often written in the Java programming language and run within browser software, and they are typically used to customize or add interactive elements to a Web page.

**AppleTalk** *n.* An inexpensive local area network developed by Apple Computer, Inc., for Macintosh computers that can be used by Apple and non-Apple computers to communicate and share resources such as printers and file servers. Non-Apple computers must be equipped with AppleTalk hardware and suitable software. The network uses a layered set of protocols similar to the ISO/OSI reference model and transfers information in the form of packets called frames. AppleTalk supports connections to other AppleTalk networks through devices known as bridges, and it supports connections to dissimilar networks through devices called gateways. *See also* bridge, frame (definition 2), gateway.

**application** *n.* A program designed to assist in the performance of a specific task, such as word processing, accounting, or inventory management. *Compare* utility.



*Apple Extended Keyboard.*

**application program interface** *n.* See application programming interface.

**application programming interface** *n.* A set of routines used by an application program to direct the performance of procedures by the computer's operating system. *Acronym:* API. Also called application program interface.

**application shortcut key** *n.* A key or combination of keys that when pressed will quickly perform an action within an application that would normally require several user actions, such as menu selections. Also called keyboard shortcut.

**application software** *n.* See application.

**application-specific integrated circuit** *n.* See gate array.

**application suite** *n.* See suite (definition 1).

**arbitration** *n.* A set of rules for resolving competing demands for a machine resource by multiple users or processes. See also contention.

**.arc** *n.* The file extension that identifies compressed archive files encoded using the Advanced RISC Computing Specification (ARC) format. See also compressed file.

**arcade game** *n.* **1.** A coin-operated computer game for one or more players that features high-quality screen graphics, sound, and rapid action. **2.** Any computer game designed to mimic the style of a coin-operated arcade game, such as games marketed for the home computer. See also computer game.

**Archie** *n.* An Internet utility for finding files in public archives obtainable by anonymous FTP. The master Archie server at McGill University in Montreal downloads FTP indexes from participating FTP servers and merges them into a master list and sends updated copies of the master list to other Archie servers each day. Archie is a shortened form of *archive*. See also anonymous FTP, FTP<sup>1</sup> (definition 1). Compare Jughead, Veronica.

**Archie client** *n.* See Archie.

**Archie server** *n.* On the Internet, a server that contains Archie indexes to the names and addresses of files in public FTP archives. See also Archie, FTP<sup>1</sup> (definition 1), server (definition 2).

**architecture** *n.* **1.** The physical construction or design of a computer system and its components. See also cache, CISC, closed architecture, network architec-

ture, data-handling capacity of a microprocessor. **3.** The design of application software incorporating protocols and the means for expansion and interfacing with other programs.

**archive<sup>1</sup>** *n.* **1.** A tape or disk containing files copied from another storage device and used as backup storage. **2.** A compressed file. **3.** A file directory on the Internet that is available by File Transfer Protocol (FTP) or an Internet directory established for dissemination of stored files.

**archive<sup>2</sup>** *vb.* **1.** To copy files onto a tape or disk for long-term storage. **2.** To compress a file.

**archive bit** *n.* A bit that is associated with a file and is used to indicate whether or not the file has been backed up. See also back up, bit.

**archive file** *n.* A file that contains a set of files, such as a program with its documentation and example input files, or collected postings from a newsgroup. On UNIX systems, archive files can be created using the tar program; they can then be compressed using compress or gzip. PKZIP under MS-DOS and Windows and StuffIt under Mac OS create archive files that are already compressed. See also compress<sup>1</sup>, gzip, PKZIP, StuffIt, tar<sup>1</sup>.

**archive site** *n.* A site on the Internet that stores files. The files are usually accessed through one of the following ways: downloaded through anonymous FTP, retrieved through Gopher, or viewed on the World Wide Web. See also anonymous FTP, Gopher.

**ARCnet** \ärk'net\ *n.* Short for Attached Resource Computer Network. A form of token bus network architecture for PC-based LANs developed by Datapoint Corporation. ARCnet relies on a bus or star topology and can support up to 255 nodes. Different versions run at speeds of 1.5 mbps, 20 Mbps (ARCnet Plus), and 100 Mbps.

**ARCnet Plus** *n.* See ARCnet.

**area chart** *n.* A graphical presentation, such as of quarterly sales figures, that uses shading or coloring to emphasize the difference between the line representing one set of data points and the line representing a separate but related set of data points. See the illustration.

**area search** *n.* In information management, the examination of a group of documents for the purpose of identifying those that are relevant to a particular subject or category.

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