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wristwatch but which, unlike those items, is interactive, responds to commands, and carries out instructions. A wearable computer may be used like a conventional computer for data collection, storage, and retrieval, but without tying the user to a stationary location while operating the computer. The earliest wearable computers were clandestine devices used in the mid-1960s to predict the performance of roulette wheels. Today, wearable computers are used for such applications as inventory and express package tracking.

**web** *n.* A set of interlinked documents in a hypertext system. The user enters the web through a home page. *See also* World Wide Web.

**Web** *n.* *See* World Wide Web.

**Web address** *n.* *See* URL.

**Web author** *n.* A person who creates content for the World Wide Web. A Web author might be a writer who produces text for a designer to include in a Web page, or such an author might be a Web designer who writes the text and also adds graphic elements and prepares the HTML code.

**Web-Based Enterprise Management** *n.* *See* WBEM.

**Web browser** *n.* Software that lets a user view HTML documents and access files and software related to those documents. Originally developed to allow users to view or "browse" documents on the World Wide Web, Web browsers can blur the distinction between local and remote resources for the user by also providing access to documents on a network, an intranet, or the local hard drive. Web browser software is built on the concept of hyperlinks, which allow users to point and click with a mouse in order to jump from document to document in whatever order they desire. Most Web browsers are also capable of downloading and transferring files, providing access to newsgroups, displaying graphics embedded in the document, playing audio and video files associated with the document, and executing small programs, such as Java applets or ActiveX controls included by programmers in the documents. Helper applications or plug-ins are required by some Web browsers to accomplish one or more of these tasks. *Also called* browser. *See also* ActiveX control, helper application, hyperlink, Internet Explorer, Java applet, Lynx, Mosaic, Netscape Navigator, plug-in.

**webcasting** *n.* Popular term for broadcasting information via the World Wide Web, using push and pull

technologies to move selected information from a server to a client. An emergent technology in 1997, webcasting was developed to provide users with customized content—for example, sports, news, stocks, and weather—that can be updated both regularly and automatically. Webcasting gives users the ability to specify the type of content they want to see, and it gives content providers a means of delivering such information directly to the user's desktop. *See also* pull, push (definition 2).

**WebCrawler** *n.* A World Wide Web search engine operated by America Online. *See also* search engine.

**Web development** *n.* The design and coding of World Wide Web pages.

**Web directory** *n.* A list of Web sites, giving the URL and a description of each. *See also* URL.

**Web index** *n.* A Web site intended to enable a user to locate other resources on the Web. The Web index may include a search facility or may merely contain individual hyperlinks to the resources indexed.

**Webmaster or webmaster** *n.* A person responsible for creating and maintaining a World Wide Web site. A Webmaster is often responsible for responding to e-mail, ensuring the site is operating properly, creating and updating Web pages, and maintaining the overall structure and design of the site. *Also called* webmistress, webweaver.

**webmistress** *n.* *See* webmaster.

**Web page** *n.* A document on the World Wide Web. A Web page consists of an HTML file, with associated files for graphics and scripts, in a particular directory on a particular machine (and thus identifiable by a URL). Usually a Web page contains links to other Web pages. *See also* URL.

**Web phone** *n.* *See* Internet telephone.

**Web rage** *n.* **1.** Anger or frustration related to the use or operation of the Internet. **2.** An intemperate, rude, or angry posting on the Internet; a flame. **3.** The latest fad to gain popularity among Web users.

**Web server** *n.* *See* HTTP server.

**Web site** *n.* A group of related HTML documents and associated files, scripts, and databases that is served up by an HTTP server on the World Wide Web. The HTML documents in a Web site generally cover one or more related topics and are interconnected through hyperlinks. Most Web sites have a home page as their starting point, which frequently functions as a table



**HTTP Next Generation** *n.* See HTTP-NG.

**HTTP-NG** *n.* Acronym for **H**ypertext Transfer Protocol Next Generation. A standard under development by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) for improving performance and enabling the addition of features such as security. Whereas the current version of HTTP establishes a connection each time a request is made, HTTP-NG will set up one connection (which consists of separate channels for control information and data) for an entire session between a particular client and a particular server.

**HTTPS** *n.* **1.** Acronym for **H**ypertext Transfer Protocol Secure. A variation of HTTP that provides for encryption and transmission through a secure port. HTTPS was devised by Netscape and allows HTTP to run over a security mechanism known as SSL (Secure Sockets Layer). See also HTTP, SSL. **2.** Web server software for Windows NT. Developed by the European Microsoft Windows NT Academic Centre (EMWAC) at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, it offers such features as WAIS search capability. See also HTTP server, WAIS.

**HTTP server** *n.* **1.** Server software that uses HTTP to serve up HTML documents and any associated files and scripts when requested by a client, such as a Web browser. The connection between client and server is usually broken after the requested document or file has been served. HTTP servers are used on Web and Intranet sites. Also called Web server. See also HTML, HTTP, server (definition 2). **2.** Any machine on which an HTTP server program is running.

**HTTP status codes** *n.* Three-digit codes sent by an HTTP server that indicate the results of a request for data. Codes beginning with 1 respond to requests that the client may not have finished sending; with 2, successful requests; with 3, further action that the client must take; with 4, requests that failed because of client error; and with 5, requests that failed because of server error. See also 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, HTTP.

**hub** *n.* In a network, a device joining communication lines at a central location, providing a common connection to all devices on the network. The term is an analogy to the hub of a wheel. See also active hub, switching hub.

**hue** *n.* In the HSB color model, one of the three characteristics used to describe a color. Hue is the attribute that most readily distinguishes one color from other colors. It depends on the frequency of a light

wave in the visible spectrum. See also color HSB. Compare brightness, saturation (definition 1).

**Huffman coding** *n.* A method of compressing a set of data based on the relative frequency of individual elements. The more often a given element, such as a letter, occurs, the shorter, in bits, is the corresponding code. It was one of the earliest data compression codes and, with modifications, remains one of the most widely used codes for a large variety of message types.

**human engineering** *n.* The designing of machines and associated products to suit the needs of humans. See also ergonomics.

**human-machine interface** *n.* The boundary through which people make contact with and use machines. Applied to programs and operating systems, it is widely known as the user interface.

**hung** *adj.* See hang.

**hybrid circuit** *n.* A circuit in which fundamentally different types of components are used to perform similar functions, such as a stereo amplifier that uses both tubes and transistors.

**hybrid computer** *n.* A computer that contains both digital and analog circuits.

**hybrid microcircuit** *n.* A microelectronic circuit that combines individual microminiaturized components and integrated components.

**hybrid network** *n.* A network constructed of different topologies, such as ring and star. See also bus network, ring network, star network, tree network.

**HyperCard** *n.* An information-management tool, designed for the Apple Macintosh, that implements many hypertext concepts. A HyperCard document consists of a series of cards, collected in a stack. Each card can contain text, graphics, sound, buttons that enable travel from card to card, and other controls. Programs and routines are coded as scripts in an object-oriented language, HyperTalk or developed as external code routines (XCMDs and XFCNs). See also hypertext, object-oriented programming, XCMD, XFCN.

**hyperlink** *n.* A connection between an element in a hypertext document, such as a word, phrase, or image, and a different element in the document or another document, a file, or a script. The user activates the link by clicking on the linked element.