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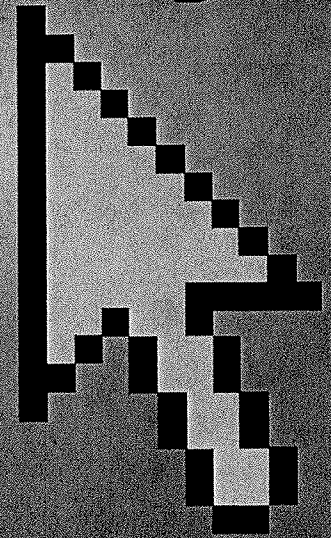
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Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition

- Fully updated with the latest technologies, terms, and acronyms
- Easy to read, expertly illustrated
- Definitive coverage of hardware, software, the Internet, and more!



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recorded piano note, digitized and stored in memory, is used by the synthesizer to create other piano-like notes.

samurai *n.* A hacker employed by a company or organization to manage network security or conduct legal cracking operations. A samurai uses the skills of a hacker to meet the legitimate needs of an employer.

SAN *n.* See storage area network.

sandbox *n.* **1.** Java Virtual Machine security area for downloaded (remote or untrusted) applets, an area in which such applets are confined and prevented from accessing system resources. Confinement to the sandbox prevents downloaded applets from carrying out potentially dangerous operations, maliciously or otherwise. They have to “play” inside the sandbox, and any attempt to “escape” is thwarted by the Java Security Manager.

2. Slang for the research and development department at many software and computer companies. See also applet, Java Virtual Machine.

sans serif *adj.* Literally, “without stroke”; describes any typeface in which the characters have no serifs (the short lines or ornaments at the upper and lower ends of the strokes). A sans serif typeface usually possesses a more straightforward, geometric appearance than a typeface with serifs and typically lacks the contrast between thick and thin strokes found in serif faces. Sans serif typefaces are used more frequently in display type, such as headlines, than in blocks of text. Compare serif¹.

SAOL *n.* Acronym for Structured Audio Orchestra Language. Part of the MPEG-4 standard, SAOL describes a set of tools for producing computer music, audio for computer games, streaming Internet sound or music, and other multimedia applications. SAOL is a flexible computer language for describing music synthesis and integrating synthetic sound with recorded sound in an MPEG-4 bit stream. See also bit stream, MPEG-4, streaming (definition 1).

SAP *n.* See Service Advertising Protocol.

SAPI *n.* Acronym for Speech Application Programming Interface. A feature in Windows 9x and Windows NT that allows applications to include speech recognition or convert text to speech. Also called: Speech API. See also voice recognition.

SAS *n.* See single attachment station.

SASL *n.* Acronym for Simple Authentication and Security Layer. An authentication support mechanism for use with connection-based protocols. SASL allows a client to request identification from a server and negotiate use of an added security layer for authentication during subsequent client/server interaction.

satellite *n.* See communications satellite.

satellite computer *n.* A computer that is connected to another computer, with which it interacts over a communications link. As its name indicates, a satellite computer is of lesser “stature” than the main, or host, computer; the host controls either the satellite itself or the tasks the satellite performs. See also remote communications.

satellite dish *n.* A parabolic (dish-shaped) reflector and antenna that is used for transmitting and receiving signals between the ground and earth satellites. Satellite dishes are commonly used for receiving television transmissions.

saturated mode *n.* The state in which a switching device or amplifier is passing the maximum possible current. A device is in saturated mode when increasing the control signal does not result in output of additional current.

saturation *n.* **1.** In a switching device or amplifier, the fully conducting state. At saturation, the device is passing the maximum possible current. The term is most commonly used with reference to circuits containing bipolar or field-effect transistors. **2.** In color graphics and printing, the amount of color in a specified hue, often specified as a percentage. See also HSB.

save *vb.* To write data (typically a file) to a storage medium, such as a disk or tape.

SAX *n.* Acronym for Simple API for XML. An event-driven application program interface (API) used to interpret an XML file. SAX works with an XML parser, providing an interface between the parser and an XML application. SAX is used as an alternative to the more complex object-based Document Object Model (DOM) interface. See also DOM.

scalability *n.* A measure of how well a computer, service, or application can grow to meet increasing performance demands. For server clusters, it is the ability to incrementally add one or more systems to an existing cluster when the overall load of the cluster exceeds its capabilities. See also server cluster.

