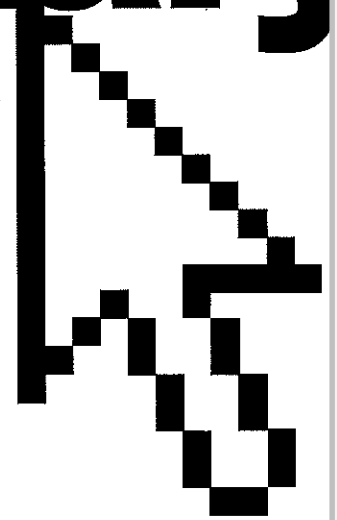


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Fourth
Edition



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N

nickname *n.* A name used in the destination field of an e-mail editor in place of one or more complete network addresses. For example "Fred" might be a nickname for fred@history.washington.edu. If the nickname has been established within the program, a user need only type "Fred" instead of the entire address, or perhaps "history faculty" instead of all the individual faculty addresses. *See also* alias (definition 2).

NII *n.* *See* National Information Infrastructure.

nil pointer *n.* *See* null pointer.

NIMH battery *n.* *See* nickel metal hydride battery.

nine's complement *n.* A number in the base-10 (decimal) system that is the complement of another number. It is derived by subtracting each digit of the number to be complemented from 1 less than the base. For example, the nine's complement of 64 is 35—the number derived by subtracting 6 from 9 and 4 from 9. *See also* complement.

NIS *n.* Acronym for Network Information Service. *See* Yellow Pages (definition 1).

nixpub *n.* A list of ISP's (Internet service providers), available in the newsgroups comp.bbs.misc and alt.bbs. *See also* ISP.

NL *n.* *See* newline character.

NLQ *n.* *See* near-letter-quality.

NLS *n.* *See* natural language support.

NMI *n.* *See* nonmaskable interrupt.

NMOS or N-MOS \N'mos\ *n.* Acronym for N-channel metal-oxide semiconductor. A semiconductor technology in which the conduction channel in MOSFETs is formed by the movement of electrons rather than holes (electron "vacancies" created as electrons move from atom to atom). Because electrons move faster than holes, NMOS is faster than PMOS, although it is more difficult and more expensive to fabricate. *See also* MOS, MOSFET, N-type semiconductor. *Compare* CMOS, PMOS.

NNTP *n.* Acronym for Network News Transfer Protocol. A de facto protocol standard on the Internet used to distribute news articles and query news servers.

NOC *n.* *See* network operation center.

node *n.* **1.** A junction of some type. **2.** In networking, a device, such as a client computer, a server, or a shared printer, that is connected to the network and is capable of communicating with other network

devices. **3.** In tree structures, a location on the tree that can have links to one or more nodes below it. Some authors make a distinction between node and element, with an element being a given data type and a node comprising one or more elements as well as any supporting data structures. *See also* element (definition 1), graph, pointer (definition 1), queue, stack, tree.

noise *n.* **1.** Any interference that affects the operation of a device. **2.** Unwanted electrical signals, produced either naturally or by the circuitry, that distort or degrade the quality or performance of a communications channel. *See also* distortion.

nonbreaking space *n.* A character that replaces the standard space character in order to keep two words together on one line rather than allowing a line to break between them.

nonconductor *n.* *See* insulator.

noncontiguous data structure *n.* In programming, a data structure whose elements are not stored contiguously in memory. Data structures such as graphs and trees, whose elements are connected by pointers, are noncontiguous data structures. *Compare* contiguous data structure.

nondedicated server *n.* A computer on a network that can function as both a client and a server; typically, a desktop machine on a peer-to-peer network. *Compare* dedicated server.

nondestructive readout *n.* A reading operation that does not destroy the data read, either because the storage technology is capable of retaining the data or because the reading operation is accompanied by a data refresh (update) function. *Acronym:* NDR, NDRO. *Compare* destructive read.

nonexecutable statement *n.* **1.** A program statement that cannot be executed because it lies outside the flow of execution through the program. For example, a statement immediately following a *return()* statement but before the end of the block in C is nonexecutable. **2.** A type definition, variable declaration, preprocessor command, comment, or other statement in a program that is not translated into executable machine code.

nonimpact printer *n.* Any printer that makes marks on the paper without striking it mechanically. The most common types are ink-jet, thermal, and laser printers. *See also* ink-jet printer, laser printer, thermal printer. *Compare* impact printer.

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