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NETWORK-1 N1-2010

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PUBLISHED BY
Microsoft Press
A Division of Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, Washington 98052-6399

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Microsoft Computer Dictionary.--5th ed.
p. cm.
ISBN 0-7356-1495-4
1. Computers--Dictionaries. 2. Microcomputers--Dictionaries.

AQ76.5. M52267 2002
004'.03--dc21 200219714

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 QWT 7 6 5 4 3 2

Distributed in Canada by H.B. Fenn and Company Ltd.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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Body Part No. X08-41929

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cations of its principles have been evidenced in communications networks, and robotics. *See also* artificial intelligence, robotics.

Swatch *n.* Short for **S**imple **Watch**er. A UNIX log monitoring and alarm program. Swatch filters system log data as specified by the user, forwarding only important data. Swatch also looks for patterns of changes made in the log file and alerts the user to system problems as they occur.

swim *n.* A condition in which images slowly move about the positions they are supposed to occupy on screen.

SWING set *n.* A library of Java GUIs that run uniformly on any native platform that supports the Java Virtual Machine (JVM). Swing Set components have largely supplanted Sun Microsystems's Abstract Window Toolkit. *See also* Abstract Window Toolkit, graphical user interface, Java Virtual Machine.

switch *n.* **1.** A circuit element that has two states: on and off. **2.** A control device that allows the user to choose one of two or more possible states. **3.** In communications, a computer or electromechanical device that controls routing and operation of a signal path. **4.** In networking, a device capable of forwarding packets directly to the ports associated with particular network addresses. *See also* bridge, multilayer, router. **5.** In operating systems such as MS-DOS, an argument used to control the execution of a command or an application, typically starting with a slash character (/).

switch box *n.* An enclosure that contains a selector switch. When a user selects a switch setting, the signal passing through the box may be directed either from a single input to one of multiple outputs, or from the selected input to a single output. Switch boxes are often used to connect multiple peripherals, such as printers, to a single port.

switched configuration *n.* A communications link in which a signal moves from the origin to a switch that routes the signal to one of several possible destinations. *Compare* point-to-point configuration.

switched Ethernet *n.* An Ethernet network run through a high-speed switch instead of an Ethernet hub. A switched Ethernet involves dedicated bandwidth of 10 Mbps between stations rather than a shared medium. *See also* Ethernet (definition 1), switch (definition 3).

switched line *n.* A standard dial-up telephone connection; the type of line established when a call is routed through a switching station. *Compare* leased line.

Switched Multimegabit Data Services *n. See* SMDS.

switched network *n.* A communications network that uses switching to establish a connection between parties, such as the dial-up telephone system.

Switched T1 *n.* A circuit-switched form of T1 communications. *See also* T1.

switched virtual circuit *n. See* SVC.

Switcher *n.* A special Macintosh utility that allowed more than one program to be resident in memory at one time. Switcher was made obsolete by MultiFinder. *See also* MultiFinder.

switching *n.* A communications method that uses temporary rather than permanent connections to establish a link or to route information between two parties. In the dial-up telephone network, for example, a caller's line goes to a switching center, where the actual connection is made to the called party. In computer networks, message switching and packet switching allow any two parties to exchange information. In both instances, messages are routed (switched) through intermediary stations that together serve to connect the sender and the receiver.

switching hub *n.* A central device (switch) that connects separate communication lines in a network and routes messages and packets among the computers on the network. The switch functions as a hub, or PBX, for the network. *See also* hub, packet (definition 1), PBX, switch (definition 3), switched Ethernet, switched network.

switching speed *n.* In a packet-switching telecommunications technology, such as ATM, the speed at which data packets are sent through the network. Switching speed is generally measured in kilobits or megabits per second. *See also* ATM (definition 1), packet switching.

SYLK file *n.* Short for **sy**mbolic **link**file. A file constructed with a proprietary Microsoft format, used primarily for exchanging spreadsheet data in such a way that formatting information and intercellular data value relationships are preserved.

symbol *n.* In programming, a name that represents a register, an absolute value, or a memory address (relative or absolute). *See also* identifier, operator (definition 1).

symbol font *n.* A special font or typeface that replaces the characters normally accessible from the keyboard with alternative characters used as symbols, such as scientific, linguistic, or foreign-alphabet characters.

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