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Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency \də-fens` əd-vansd` rē´sərch proj`ekts ā`jən-sē\ *n.* The U.S. government agency that provided the original support for the development of the interconnected networks that later grew into the Internet. *Acronym:* DARPA (där´pə, D`A-R-P-A´). *See also* ARPANET.

deferred address \də-fərd` a´dres, ə-dres´\ *n.* An indirect address (memory location) whose calculation is delayed until a program is run. *See also* relative address.

deferred processing \də-fərd` pros´es-ēng\ *n.* Processing of data after it has been received and stored in blocks. *Compare* direct processing.

deflection coils \də-flek´shən koilz`\ *n. See* yoke.

deformation \def`ər-mā´shən\ *n.* In multimedia and computer-aided design applications, the process of altering a model via certain tools, such as stretch, shatter, bend, and twist. *See also* CAD, multimedia.

defragmentation \dē`frag mən-tā´ shən\ *n.* The process of rewriting parts of a file to contiguous sectors on a hard disk to increase the speed of access and retrieval. When files are updated, the computer tends to save these updates on the largest continuous space on the hard disk, which is often on a different sector than the other parts of the file. When files are thus "fragmented," the computer must search the hard disk each time the file is accessed to find all of the file's parts, which slows down response time. Windows 95 and Windows NT include defragmentation utilities (or *defraggers*) as part of the operating system. For the MAC OS, Windows 3.*x*, and DOS systems, defragmentation utilities must be purchased separately. *See also* optimization (definition 1). *Compare* fragmentation.

degausser \dē-gä´sər, dē-gô´sər\ *n.* A device used to remove magnetization from a video monitor or tape recorder head and to erase information from magnetic storage media, such as tapes and disks.

degradation \de`grə-dā´shən\ *n.* **1.** In communications, a deterioration of signal quality, as from line interference. **2.** In computer systems, a reduction in level of performance or service. Degradation in microcomputer performance is indicated by slow response times or frequent pauses for disk access because memory is insufficient to hold an entire program plus the data the program is using.

deinstall \dē`in-stäl´\ *vb. See* uninstall.

dejagging \dē-jag´ēng\ *n.* Smoothing of the jagged, "stairstep" appearance of diagonal lines and curves in graphical images. *Also called* anti-aliasing. *Compare* aliasing.

de jure standard \də jo͝or`ā stan´dərd\ *n.* A standard for hardware or software development that has been issued or approved through a formal process by a standards organization. *See also* standard. *Compare* de facto standard.

DEK \D`E-K´\ *n. See* data encryption key.

deka- \dek´ə\ *prefix* Metric prefix meaning 10^1 (a factor of 10).

delay distortion \də-lā´ di-stōr`shən\ *n. See* envelope delay.

delete \də-lēt´\ *vb.* To eliminate text, a file, or part of a document with the intention of removing the information permanently. There are several ways to delete. On-screen characters and parts of documents can be deleted with the Delete key, the Backspace key, or with a program's Delete command. Files can be deleted through a command to the operating system.

Delete key \də-lēt´ kē`\ *n.* **1.** On IBM and PC-compatible computers, a key whose function changes depending on the application program. Usually it erases the character under the cursor, although in some applications it can erase selected text or graphics. **2.** On Apple Macintosh computers, a key on the ADB and Extended keyboards that erases the character preceding the insertion point or erases highlighted text or graphics.

deletia \də-lē´shə\ *n.* Omitted material. The term is used in responses to Usenet or mailing list messages to indicate that some unnecessary material has been excluded from the incorporated message being answered.

delimit \di-lim´it\ *vb.* To set the limits of some entity, generally by using a special symbol called a delimiter. Programming languages typically delimit such variable-length elements as comments, strings, and program blocks. *See also* delimiter.

delimiter \di-lim´i-tər\ *n.* A special character that sets off, or separates, individual items in a program

or set of data. In the following example, commas separate the fields in a database record (each nonnumeric field is enclosed by double quotation marks).

"Jones", "718 Harbor Drive", "Bayview", "WA", 98077;
"Smith", "324 Marina Ave.", "Yelm", "WA", 98597;

See also delimit, field (definition 1), record[1].

Del key \də-lēt´ kē`\ *n.* *See* Delete key.

Delphi Information Service \del`fī in`fər-mā´shən sər`vəs\ *n.* An online information service and Internet access provider based in Boston.

demand-driven processing \də-mand`-driv-ən pros´es-ēng\ *n.* The processing of data immediately as it becomes available or ready. Such real-time processing avoids the need to store data that has not been processed. *Compare* data-driven processing.

demand paging \də-mand´ pā`jēng\ *n.* The most common implementation of virtual memory, in which pages of data are read into main memory from an auxiliary storage device only in response to interrupts that result when software requests a memory location that the system has saved to auxiliary storage and reused for other purposes. *See also* paging, swap (definition 2), virtual memory.

demo \dem´ō\ *n.* **1.** Short for **demo**nstration. A partial or limited version of a software package distributed free of charge for advertising purposes. Demos often consist of animated presentations that describe or demonstrate the program's features. *See also* crippled version. **2.** A computer in a store that is available for customers to test, to see if they wish to buy it.

demodulation \di-moj`ə-lā´shən, di-mo`dyə-lā´-shən\ *n.* In communications, the means by which a modem converts data from modulated carrier frequencies (waves that have been modified in such a way that variations in amplitude and frequency represent meaningful information) over a telephone line to the digital form needed by a computer, with as little distortion as possible. *Compare* modulation (definition 1).

demonstration program or **demo program** \dem`ən-strā´shən prō`gram\ *n.* **1.** A prototype that shows the on-screen look and sometimes the proposed capabilities of a program under development. *See also* prototyping. **2.** A scaled-down version of a proprietary program offered as a marketing tool.

denizen \den´i-zən\ *n.* A participant in a Usenet newsgroup.

dependence \də-pen´dəns\ *n.* The state in which one entity relies upon specific hardware, software, or specific events for its own definition or functionality. *See also* context-dependent, dependent variable, device dependence, hardware-dependent, software-dependent.

dependent variable \də-pen`dənt vâr´ē-ə-bl\ *n.* A variable in a program whose value relies on the outcome of another operation.

depth queuing \depth´ kyo͞o`ēng\ *vb.* **1.** In computer graphics and modeling, giving a two-dimensional object a three-dimensional appearance through such techniques as shading and hidden-line removal. **2.** Drawing objects from background to foreground to ease in the task of hidden-line removal.

deque \dek\ *n.* Short for **d**ouble-**e**nded **que**ue. A form of the queue data structure that can have elements added to or removed from either end of the list. *See also* queue.

dequeue \dē-kyo͞o´\ *vb.* To remove from a queue. *See also* queue.

dereference \dē`ref´rəns\ *vb.* In programming, to access information at the address contained by a pointer. The syntax for dereferencing varies among computer languages. *See also* double-dereference, handle (definition 1), pointer.

derived class \dər-īvd` klas´\ *n.* In object-oriented programming, a class created from another class, called the base class. A derived class inherits all the features of its base class. It can then add data elements and routines, redefine routines from the base class, and restrict access to base-class features. *See also* base class, class, inheritance (definition 1), object-oriented programming.

derived font \dər-īvd` font´\ *n.* A font that has been scaled or modified from a previously existing font. For example, the Macintosh operating system can generate characters in font sizes other than the installed range of sizes. *See also* font. *Compare* intrinsic font.

derived relation \dər-īvd` rə-lā´shən\ *n.* A relation produced as the result of one or more

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