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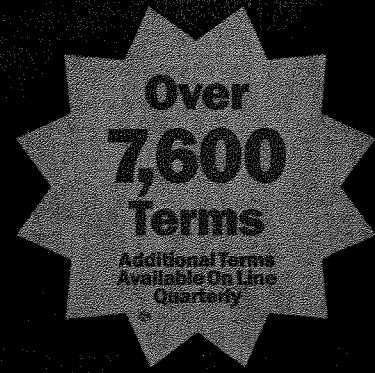
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the ink. Once the shapes have been determined, character recognition methods are used to translate the shapes into computer text. A familiar use of this form of character recognition is to identify bank checks. *Acronym:* MICR (mī´kər, M`I-C-R´). *See also* character recognition. *Compare* optical character recognition.

magnetic oxide \mag-net`ik oks´īd\ *n. See* ferric oxide.

magnetic storage \mag-net`ik stōr´əj\ *n.* A generic term for non-internal-memory computer data storage involving a magnetic medium, such as disk or tape.

magnetic tape \mag-net`ik tāp´\ *n. See* tape (definition 1).

magneto-optical recording \mag-nē`tō-op-tə-kəl rə-kōr´dēng, mag-net`ō-\ *n.* A type of recording technology used with optical discs in which a laser beam heats a small portion of the magnetic material covering the disc. The heating enables a weak magnetic field to change the orientation of the portion, thus recording onto the disc. This technique can also be used to erase the disc, making the disc rewritable.

magneto-optic disc \mag-nē`tō-op-tik disk´, mag-net`ō-\ *n.* An erasable or semi-erasable storage disc, similar to a CD-ROM disc and of very high capacity, in which a laser beam is used to heat the recording surface to a point at which tiny regions on the surface can be magnetically aligned to store bits of data. *See also* CD-ROM, magneto-optical recording.

magnitude \mag´nə-to͞od`\ *n.* The size of a number, regardless of its sign (+ or −). For example, 16 and −16 have the same magnitude. *See also* absolute value.

mailbomb[1] \māl´bom\ *n.* An excessively large amount of e-mail data (a very large number of messages or one very large message) sent to a user's e-mail address in an attempt to make the user's mailer program crash or to prevent the user from receiving further legitimate messages. *See also* e-mail[1] (definition 1). *Compare* letterbomb.

mailbomb[2] \māl´bom\ *vb.* To send a mailbomb to a user. One person might mailbomb a user with a single enormous message; a large number of users might mailbomb an unpopular person by simultaneously sending messages of normal size.

mailbot \māl´bot\ *n.* A program that automatically responds to e-mail messages or performs actions based on commands within the messages. A mailing list manager is one example. *See also* mailing list manager.

mailbox \māl´boks\ *n.* A disk storage area assigned to a network user for receipt of e-mail messages. *See also* e-mail[1] (definition 1).

mail digest \māl` dī´jest\ *n. See* digest (definition 2).

mailer-daemon \mā´lər-dē`mən\ *n.* A program used to transport e-mail between hosts on a network. *See also* daemon.

mail filter \māl´ fil`tər\ *n. See* e-mail filter.

mail header \māl´ hed`ər\ *n.* A block of text at the top of an e-mail message containing such information as the addresses of the sender and recipient(s), the date and time sent, the address to which a reply is to be sent, and the subject. The mail header is used by an e-mail client or program. *See also* e-mail[1] (definition 1).

mailing list \mā´lēng list`\ *n.* A list of names and e-mail addresses that are grouped under a single name. When a user places the name of the mailing list in a mail client's To: field, the client sends the message to the machine where the mailing list resides, and that machine automatically sends the message to all the addresses on the list (possibly allowing a moderator to edit it first). *See also* LIST-SERV, mailing list manager, Majordomo, moderator.

mailing list manager \mā´lēng list man`ə-jər\ *n.* Software that maintains an Internet or intranet mailing list. The mailing list manager accepts messages posted by subscribers; sends copies of the messages (which may be edited by a moderator) to all the subscribers; and accepts and processes user requests, such as to subscribe or to unsubscribe to the mailing list. The most commonly used mailing list managers are LISTSERV and Majordomo. *See also* LISTSERV, mailing list, Majordomo, moderator.

mail merge \māl´ mərj\ *n.* A mass-mail facility that takes names, addresses, and sometimes pertinent facts about recipients and merges the information into a form letter or another such basic document.

mail reflector \māl´ rə-flek`tər\ *n.* A newsgroup that consists simply of the messages posted to a mailing list translated into newsgroup format.