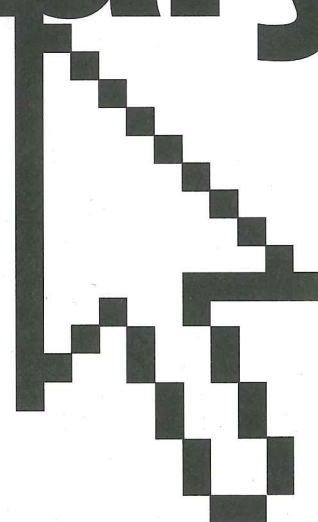


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routing, error control, line control, and polling (checking terminals for transmissions), leaving the main computer free for other functions. *See also* communications controller.

**Network Control Protocol** *n.* *See* Point-to-Point Protocol.

**network database** *n.* 1. A database that runs in a network. 2. A database containing the address of other users in the network. 3. In information management, a type of database in which data records can be related to one another in more than one way. A network database is similar to a hierarchical database in the sense that it contains a progression from one record to another. It differs in being less rigidly structured: any single record can point to more than one other record and, conversely, can be pointed to by one or more records. In effect, a network database allows more than one path between any two records, whereas a hierarchical database allows only one, from parent (higher-level record) to child (lower-level record). *Compare* hierarchical database, relational database.

**Network Data Management Protocol** *n.* *See* NDMP.

**network device driver** *n.* Software that coordinates communication between the network adapter card and the computer's hardware and other software, controlling the physical function of the network adapter card.

**Network Device Interface Specification** *n.* *See* NDIS.

**network directory** *n.* On a local area network, a directory on a disk that is located on a computer other than the one the user is operating. A network directory differs from a network drive in that the user has access to only that directory. Whether the rest of the disk is accessible to the user depends on whether he or she has been granted access rights by the network administrator. On the Macintosh, a network directory is referred to as a shared folder. *Also called* networked directory, shared directory. *See also* network drive, shared folder.

**network drive** *n.* On a local area network, a disk drive whose disk is available to other computers on the network. Access to a network drive might not be allowed to all users of the network; many operating systems contain security provisions that enable a network administrator to grant or deny access to part or all of a network drive. *Also called* networked drive. *See also* network directory

**Network Driver Interface Specification** *n.* *See* NDIS.

**networked directory** *n.* *See* network directory.

**networked drive** *n.* *See* network drive.

**Network File System** *n.* *See* NFS.

**network information center** *n.* *See* NIC (definition 2).

**network interface card** *n.* An expansion card or other device used to provide network access to a computer or other device, such as a printer. Network interface cards mediate between the computer and the physical media, such as cabling, over which transmissions travel. *Acronym:* NIC. *Also called* network adapter, network card.

**network latency** *n.* The time it takes for information to be transferred between computers in a network.

**network layer** *n.* The third of the seven layers in the ISO/OSI reference model for standardizing computer-to-computer communications. The network layer is one level above the data-link layer and ensures that information arrives at its intended destination. It is the middle of the three layers (data-link, network, and transport) concerned with the actual movement of information from one device to another. *See* the illustration. *See also* ISO/OSI reference model.

#### ISO/OSI MODEL

ISO/OSI Layer	Focus
Application (highest level)	Program-to-program transfer of information
Presentation	Text formatting and display, code conversion
Session	Establishing, maintaining, and coordinating communication
Transport	Accurate delivery, service quality
Network	Transport routes, message handling and transfer
Data-link	Coding, addressing, and transmitting information
Physical	Hardware connections

*Network layer.*

**network meltdown** *n.* *See* broadcast storm, meltdown.

**network model** *n.* A database structure, or layout, similar to a hierarchical model, except that records can have multiple parent records as well as multiple child records. A database management system that