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# IBM DICTIONARY OF COMPUTING

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# IBM DICTIONARY OF COMPUTING

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This book is printed on acid-free paper.

**contact interrogation signal** A signal whose value indicates whether a contact is open or closed. (T) (A)

**contact phase** A phase of link activation during which negotiation-proceeding XID3s are exchanged between the connected link stations to establish the primary and secondary roles of the link stations, the TG number to be used, and other characteristics of the link, and during which the mode-setting command is sent and acknowledged after the primary and the secondary roles are established. Link activation may consist only of the contact phase, or it may also have either a connect phase or a prenegotiation phase or both preceding the contact phase.

**contact port** Synonym for well-known port.

**contact protection** Protection of a mechanical contact against overcurrent or overvoltage. (T)

**container** In SAA Common User Access architecture, an object that holds other objects. A folder is an example of a container object. See also folder and object.

**containment** In the AIX operating system, location of a pointer in the window, and not within an inferior of the window, and location of the cursor hotspot within a visible region of a viewable window or one of its inferiors. The border of the window is considered part of the window.

**contamination** In computer security, the intermixing of data having different classification levels or need-to-know levels. The lower level data are said to be contaminated by the higher level data with the possible result that the contaminating data do not receive the required level of protection.

**content-addressable storage** Synonym for associative storage.

**contention** (1) In a local area network, a situation in which two or more data stations are allowed by the medium access control protocol to start transmitting concurrently and thus risk collision. (T) (2) In a session, a situation in which both network accessible units (NAUs) attempt to initiate the same action at the same time, such as when both attempt to send data in a half-duplex protocol (half-duplex contention), or both attempt to start a bracket (bracket contention). At session initiation, one NAU is defined to be the contention winner; its action will take precedence when contention occurs. The contention loser must get explicit or implicit permission from the contention winner to begin its action. (3) In ACF/TCAM, any point-to-point line configuration in which the station on the line does not use polling and addressing characters. (4) For BSC, the state that exists after the EOT

character has been received or sent and before a BID command is complete.

**contention-loser session** To a network accessible unit (NAU), a session for which it was defined during session initiation to be the contention loser.

**contention mode** In data communication, a mode of transmission in which any station may transmit whenever the line is available. If stations transmit simultaneously, protocols determine who wins the contention.

**contention polarity** The role of each LU when contention occurs for use of a session. One LU is the contention winner and the other LU is the contention loser.

**contention state** In data communications, a condition of a half-duplex line or data link control in which either user may transmit any time the line or link is available. If both users attempt to transmit at the same time, the protocols or the hardware determines who can transmit first.

**contention system** A system in which one or more stations compete for use of the line.

**contents directory** In OS/VS2, a series of queues that indicate the routines either in a particular region or in the link pack area.

**contention-winner session** To a network accessible unit (NAU), a session for which it was defined during session initiation to be the contention winner.

**contents list** In word processing, the display or printout of a list of available stored information for selection by the operator. (T)

**contents view** A view of an object that shows the contents of the object in list form. Contents views are provided for containers, and for any object that has container behavior; for example, a device object such as a printer. See also composed view, help view.

**context** (1) A stated or implied sense in which a thing has meaning, or a category or scope to which it applies. (2) In System/38, a system object that contains addressability to system objects by name. It is used in system pointer resolution to obtain system pointers to system objects. See also system object.

**context editing** A method of editing a line without using line numbers. To refer to a particular line, all or part of the contents of that line is specified.

**contextual help** In SAA Common User Access architecture, help that gives specific information about the item the cursor is on. The help is contextual because

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# G

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**G** Giga; ten to the ninth power, or 1,000,000,000 in decimal notation. When referring to storage capacity, two to the thirtieth power, 1,073,741,824 in decimal notation.

**g** Gram.

**GA** Go-ahead sequence.

**GADDR** Group address.

**gadget** In the AIXwindows program, a windowless graphical object that looks like its equivalent like-named widget but does not support the translations, actions, or pop-up widget children supplied by that widget.

**gadget ID** In the AIXwindows program, a unique identification number assigned to each instance of a gadget used within a given graphical interface.

**gaffer** In video and film production, a member of a production crew, typically involved in building and striking sets, and in providing general assistance to the director.

**gain** The strength of an analog signal.

**GAM** Graphics access method.

**game port** On a personal computer, a port used to connect devices such as joysticks and paddles.

**gamma correction** In AIX graphics, a logarithmic assignment of intensities to lookup table entries for shading applications. This is required because the human eye perceives intensities logarithmically rather than linearly.

**gamma ramp** In AIX graphics, a set of three lookup tables, one for each of the colors red, green, and blue, attached to the electron guns of the monitor. See also color ramp, gamma correction.

**gang punch** To punch identical hole patterns into each punch card of a card deck. (I) (A)

**Gantt Chart** A graphical representation of a project schedule that depicts the time relationship between activities.

**gap** See file gap, interblock gap, interrecord gap.

**gap character** A character included in a computer word for technical reasons that does not represent data. (I) (A)

**gap loss** (1) In fiber optics, that optical power loss caused by a space between axially aligned fibers. (E) See also coupling loss. (2) In waveguide-to-waveguide coupling, synonymous with longitudinal offset loss.

**gap seal** In the 3800, a plastic material that seals the photoconductor gap in the drum. The seal can be released or removed to permit the photoconductor to be advanced or replaced.

**gap width** The dimension of the air gap between a read/write head and the surface of the recording medium.

**garage** In MSS, an area at each end of a 3851 Mass Storage Facility in which an accessor is stored when not in use.

**garbage** Meaningless data.

**garbage collection** The process of identifying unused areas of main storage. (A)

**gas panel** Synonym for plasma panel.

**gate** (1) A combinational circuit that performs an elementary logic operation and usually involves one output. (T) (2) A combinational logic element having at least one input channel. (A) (3) See AND gate, EXCLUSIVE-OR gate, identity gate, IF-AND-ONLY-IF gate, IF-THEN gate, INCLUSIVE-OR gate, majority gate, NAND gate, NOR gate, NOT gate, NOT-IF-THEN gate, OR gate, threshold gate. (4) Synonymous with logic element.

**Note:** A gate usually involves one output.

**gateway** (1) A functional unit that interconnects two computer networks with different network architectures. A gateway connects networks or systems of different architectures. A bridge interconnects networks or systems with the same or similar architectures. (T) (2) In the AIX operating system, an entity that operates above the link layer and translates, when required, the interface and protocol used by one network into those used by another distinct network. (3) A network that connects hosts. See active gateway, exterior gateway, interior gateway, neighbor gateway, passive gateway. (4) In TCP/IP, a device

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