

QUE'S
**COMPUTER
& INTERNET
DICTIONARY**

6th Edition

By Bryan Pfaffenberger, Ph.D.
with David Wall

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e's Computer & Internet Dictionary, 6th Edition

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Interpretation of the printing code: the rightmost double-digit number is the year of the book's printing; the rightmost single-digit number, the number of the book's printing. For example, the printing code of 95-1 shows that the first printing of the book occurred in 1995.

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printer maintenance

inter maintenance Regular procedures, such as cleaning, that keep a *printer* operating without problems. *Laser printers* require periodic cleaning of their rollers, *corona wires*, and lenses.

inter port See *parallel port* and *serial port*.

ivacy On a *network*, a presumed right that your disk storage area, *electronic mail*, and files will not be scrutinized by persons to whom you have not given permission. However, privacy on a computer network does not exist. Although the federal *Electronic Communications Privacy Act (1986)* prohibits federal agencies from accessing your e-mail while it is in transit or temporary storage, no federal law prevents employers or other persons from doing so. Many employers believe that they may read employees' mail with impunity; after all, employees are using the employer's equipment. You can protect your privacy by encrypting your messages. See *encryption* and *Privacy Enhanced Mail (PEM)*.

Privacy Enhanced Mail (PEM) An *Internet* standard that assures the privacy of *electronic mail*. PEM uses *public key encryption* techniques to assure that only the intended recipient of the message will be able to read it.

RML read-channel technology See *partial-response maximum-likelihood read-channel technology*.

procedural language A *programming language* such as *ASIC* or *Pascal* that requires the programmer to specify the procedure the computer has to follow to accomplish the task. See *declarative language*.

process color One of the four colors—cyan, magenta, yellow, and black—that are mixed to create other colors. See *CMYK*, *color model*, and *spot color*.

processing The execution of program instructions by the computer's *central processing unit (CPU)* that in some way transforms data, such as sorting it, selecting some of it according to specified criteria, or performing mathematical computations on it.

processor upgrade A *chip* designed to replace or complement a *microprocessor* and provide improved performance. Intel's *OverDrive* chip is a processor upgrade for the *Intel 486*. Also, the act of installing such a chip.

Prodigy An *on-line information service* jointly developed by Sears and *IBM* that offers (via modem) personal computer users home shopping, news, stock quotes, hobbyist conferences, and so on.

Innovative features of Prodigy include the use of a bit-mapped *graphical user interface (GUI)* and unlimited use of the system for a flat fee. (An exception is *electronic mail* usage, for which a surcharge may be added based on the number of messages sent.) Prodigy was the first commercial on-line service to offer access to the World Wide Web (WWW).

Prodigy, however, has no provisions for software *uploading* and has limited *downloading*. Also, part of the screen is occupied by commercial advertisements.

professional workstation A high-performance personal computer optimized for professional applications in fields such as digital circuit design, architecture, and technical drawing.

Professional workstations typically offer excellent screen *resolution*, fast and powerful microprocessors, and lots of memory. Examples include the workstations made by Sun Microsystems and NeXT, Inc. Professional workstations are more expensive than personal computers and typically use the *UNIX operating system*. The boundary between *high-end personal computers* and professional workstations, however, is eroding as personal computers become more powerful.

program A list of instructions, written in a *programming language*, that a computer can execute so that the machine acts in a predetermined way. Synonymous with software. The world of computer programs can be divided into system programs, utility programs, and application programs:

- System programs include all the programs the computer requires to function effectively, including the operating system, memory management software, and command-line interpreters. The MS-DOS operating system is an example of system software.
- *Utility programs* include all the programs you can use to maintain the computer system. MS-DOS includes several utility programs, such as CHKDSK. Most users equip their systems with utility packages (such as Norton Utilities or PC Tools) that go beyond the basics that MS-DOS provides.

OK button

When a button is highlighted or surrounded by a thick black line, you can press Enter to choose OK.

Client See *client application*.

Server See *server application*.

board audio A circuit on the *motherboard* that simulates *sound board* and is usually adequate only for *business audio* applications. Onboard audio circuits usually use crude *FM synthesis* techniques to produce sounds, and can be replaced, in a *desktop computer*, with a sound board of higher quality.

board cache See *internal cache*.

board speaker A small speaker located inside the computer's *case*. Though the on-board speaker can generate crude beeps, buzzes, and honks, it is entirely unsuitable for *multimedia applications*. A *sound board* and *auxiliary speakers* provide much better sound output than the on-board speaker.

line Directly connected with and accessible to a computer; for example, after you successfully hook it up to your PC and turn it on. In *data communications*, connected with another, distant computer; for example, the successful connection with a *host computer* in a *client-server network*. On a bulletin board system (BBS), when a file or application is available to the users.

line help A help utility available on-screen while you're using a *network* or an *application program*.

line information service A for-profit firm that makes current news, stock quotes, and other information available to its subscribers over standard telephone lines. See *America Online*, *Biographic retrieval service*, *CompuServe*, *Delphi*, *Dow Jones News/Retrieval Service*, *GENie*, and *Prodigy*.

screen formatting In a *word processing* program, a formatting technique in which formatting commands directly affect text that's visible on-screen. See *embedded formatting command* and *what-you-see-is-what-you-get (WYSIWYG)*.

the-fly data compression A method by which data to be sent by *modem* is packed into a tighter package during transmission rather than before, thereby increasing apparent transmission

open architecture 371

speed. Protocols such as *V.42bis* and *MNP5* handle on-the-fly *data compression*.

one hundred (100) percent column graph A *column graph* that resembles a pie graph in that each "slice" of the column displays the relative percentage of that data item compared to the total (see fig. O.3). See *stacked column graph*.

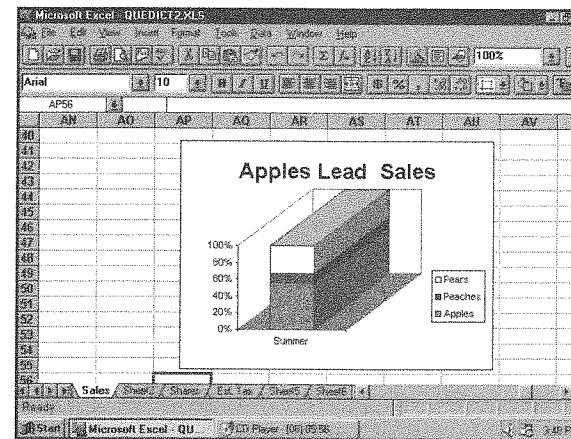


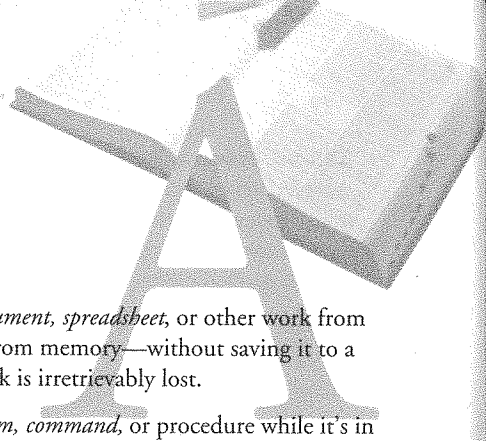
Fig. O.3 A 100 percent column graph.

one-shot program A program designed to solve one problem, one time, and never be used again. One-shot programs often do not conform to the rules of style and *modular programming* that govern programs meant to be used over and over, which presents a problem if a one-shot program becomes widely popular. See *canonical form*.

OOPS Acronym for object-oriented programming system. See *object-oriented programming language*.

open Available for modification; not controlled by a single manufacturer.

open architecture A system in which all the system specifications are made public so that other companies will develop add-on products such as *adapters* for the system. See *open bus system*.



abandon To clear a *document*, *spreadsheet*, or other work from the screen—and therefore from memory—without saving it to a *floppy* or *hard disk*. The work is irretrievably lost.

abort To cancel a *program*, *command*, or procedure while it's in progress. You can often abort a procedure manually, or a procedure may abort by itself because of a *bug* in the program, power failure, or other unexpected cause.

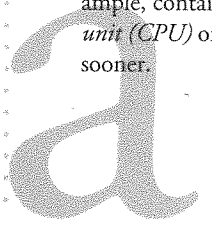
A-B roll editing In *multimedia*, a method for creating a master edited video sequence by directing selected portions of video signals from two video sources (VCRs or camcorders) to a destination recording device, usually a VCR.

absolute address In a *program*, specifying a location in *random-access memory (RAM)* by its address instead of using an expression to calculate the address.

absolute cell reference A *spreadsheet cell reference* that doesn't adjust when you *copy* or move a *formula*. An absolute cell reference includes the \$ symbol before both the *column* letter and the *row* number (\$A\$6). Use absolute cell references when you refer to cells containing *key variables*, such as the inflation rate or a standard discount. See *relative cell reference*.

absolute value The positive value of a number, regardless of its sign (positive or negative). The absolute value of -357, for example, is 357. In *Microsoft Excel* and other *spreadsheet* programs, the @ABS built-in function returns the absolute value of a number.

accelerator board A circuit board designed to speed up some function of your computer. A *graphics accelerator board*, for example, contains a *microprocessor* that relieves the *central processing unit (CPU)* of many video chores, enabling it to get to other work sooner.



accent A mark that forms one of the special characters of languages. The following accents are used frequently:

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| ´ Acute | ˘ Breve | ç Cedilla |
| ^ Circumflex | ¨ Diaeresis | ` Grave |
| ° Macron | ˜ Tilde | ¨ Umlaut |

Accented characters are included in most *font* sets, and some education programs include commands or keystrokes that insert accented characters for you. See *compose sequence* and *extended character set*.



Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) A *service provider's* policy statement that indicates which types of uses are permissible. Enforced by the *AUP* of *NSFNet*, the backbone network formerly funded by the U.S. *National Science Foundation (NSF)*, the AUP of publicly funded *networks* sharply restrict commercial use. To foster commercial development of the *Internet*, an organization called the *Commercial Internet Exchange (CIX)* provides an AUP-free international backbone for commercial Internet traffic.

acceptance test A final demonstration of a new *software* or *hardware* product that illustrates the product's capabilities and special features. When companies or other entities hire *systems analysts* or other computer consultants to do work for them, an acceptance test serves to show that the consultants have satisfied their contract obligations.

Access See *Microsoft Access*.

access To retrieve *data* or *program* instructions from a *hard floppy disk drive* or another computer connected to your computer by a *network* or a *modem*.

access arm See *head arm*.

access code An identification number or *password* you use to gain access to a computer system.

access control In a *network*, a means of ensuring the *system security* by demanding that users supply a *login name* and *password*.

access control list (ACL) In a *network*, a *database* that lists the valid users of the systems and the level of network access they have been granted.

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