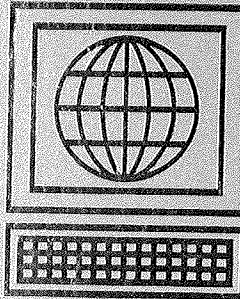BARRON'S
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AB

Douglas Dow[...]
is the author [...]
Computer Pr[...]
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Basic for DOS and Windows, and **CA-Realizer** for OS/2 have application frameworks built in.

APPLICATION MENU (Macintosh) the menu at the far right end of a window's title bar that allows you to quickly switch between open application programs. The icon for the Application Menu changes to show the active program.

A similar Windows feature is the TASK LIST.

APPLICATION PROGRAMS computer programs that perform useful work not related to the computer itself. Examples include word processors, spreadsheets, accounting systems, and engineering programs. *Contrast* UTILITIES; OPERATING SYSTEM.

APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER a person who writes programs that use the computer as a tool to solve particular problems, rather than just to manage the computer itself. *Contrast* SYSTEMS PROGRAMMER.

ARC

1. part of a circle.

2. a data compression program for the IBM PC formerly produced by System Enhancement Associates in the mid-1980s, a precursor of ZIP. *See* ZIP FILE.

ARCCOS *see* ARC COSINE.

ARC COSINE the inverse of the trigonometric cosine function. If $x = \cos y$ then $y = \arccos x$. Many computer languages provide the arc tangent function but not the arc cosine function. You can work around this by using the relation:

$$\arccos x = \arctan \frac{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}{x}$$

where x is positive and angles are expressed in radians. *See also* TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTIONS.

ARCHIE a SEARCH ENGINE for finding files available by ANONYMOUS FTP. At many UNIX sites, the Archie database can be searched by typing the command `archie`. The database resides on a number of sites known as Archie servers.

Archie was developed by Alan Emtage, Bill Heelan, and Peter Deutsch at McGill University. The name is said to be short for "archive."

ARCHIVAL STORAGE storage for data that must be kept for a long time but will seldom be used, such as backup copies of working programs. Microcomputers with hard disks often use tape cartridges or floppy disks for archival storage. Magnetic tape is usually the cheaper form of archival storage, but the tapes should be copied every 2 or 3 years if their contents are still needed, since tapes can become demagnetized with age.