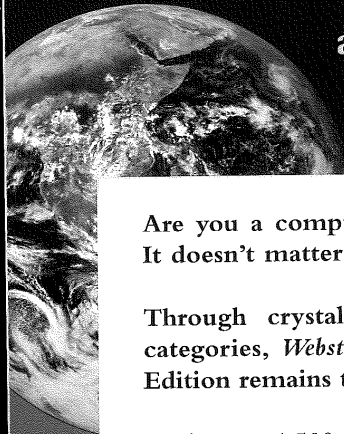


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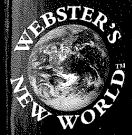
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conversations with other system users while they are online.

**talk hierarchy** In Usenet, one of the seven standard newsgroup hierarchies. The talk newsgroups are expressly devoted to controversial topics and are often characterized by acrimonious debate. Topics covered include abortion, drugs, and gun control. See *Usenet*.

**tape** A strip of thin plastic coated with a magnetically sensitive recording medium. In mainframe computing and minicomputing, tape is widely used as a backup medium. Thanks to a dramatic price drop in cartridge tape backup units, tape has become increasingly common in personal computing for backing up entire hard drives. See *backup procedure*, *backup utility*, *quarter-inch cartridge (QIC)*, *random access*, *sequential access*, *tape backup unit*.

**tape backup unit** A device that reads and writes data on a magnetically sensitive tape. Tape backup units are useful for performing backups on hard disks—thus protecting data from loss by accidental erasure—and for storing important but rarely needed data that would otherwise take up space on a hard disk. Quarter-inch cartridge (QIC) tape drives are the most common tape backup units for personal computers.

**tape drive** See *tape backup unit*.

**tar** A standard file archive utility in Unix and Unix-like operating systems (including Linux) that does not offer compression services. After they are created, tar archives are generally compressed using the Unix compress (.Z extension) or gzip (.gz extension) utilities, resulting in compound extensions such as tar.Z or tar.gz. See *archive*, *compression*, *gzip*.

**Targa** A graphics file format developed by Truevision for Targa and Vista graphics products and now widely used as a standard

file format for high-end graphics output (such as rendering and ray tracing). Targa files, with the extension .TGA, can have a color depth of up to 32 bits for certain purposes, although the most common color depth is 24 bits, providing more than 16 million colors.

**taskbar** In Microsoft Windows, an application launcher and task switcher that (by default) remains visible at the bottom of the screen. After launching a program with the Start menu, the program's task button appears on the taskbar, allowing the user to switch to it by clicking the button.

**task button** In Microsoft Windows, a button that appears on the taskbar after an application program is launched. The user can switch to the application by clicking the task button.

**Tcl** An interpreted scripting language that is now maintained by Sun Microsystems. Used primarily on Unix and Linux systems, Tcl includes a graphical user interface toolkit that enables developers to create simple GUI applications in short order. See *Perl*, *Python*, *scripting language*.

**TCM** See *trellis-code modulation*.

**TCO** Acronym for Tjänstemännens Centralorganisation, the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (Sweden's largest white-collar labor union). In monitors, TCO is known for its very stringent regulations regarding electromagnetic radiation—even stricter than MPR II rules. Not many TCO-certified monitors are available in the United States, but the TCO standards are the toughest in the world.

**TCP** Acronym for Transmission Control Protocol. On the Internet, the protocol (standard) that permits two Internet-connected computers to establish a reliable connection. TCP ensures reliable data delivery with a method known as positive

acknowledgment (PAR). The connection continues until the data transfer is confirmed. See *Internet Protocol*.

**TCP/IP** Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP), a set of protocols that refer to the way data is transferred over a network. By far the most important working protocol in the Internet, TCP/IP is a packet-switched network protocol. It is the technical foundation of the Internet as a global, private network. The "i" in TCP/IP refers to distribution (Internet) of the data. The "p" refers to its flexibility in using various protocols, such as the philosophy of the Client-Server Model—an architecture based on TCP/IP capabilities. It can be used for physical networks (LANs), wireless networks (LANs), relay, digital, and optical networks. Although not a protocol, it is the entire system that makes up the Internet. It is the sum of the protocols that make up the Internet Protocol. The connection between the two is the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)—a set of protocols that is needed to establish a reliable connection over a network. See *Internet Protocol*, *Internet Protocol Model*, *TCP*.

**TCP/IP model** The Internet technology that uses a set of protocols, where the external network is indicated by the Internet Protocol (IP) and private