Pamela A. Goodrich

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Computer Dictionary

Third Edition

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developed for Microsoft Windows version 3.0, that enables MS-DOS–based application programs to run in the protected mode built into 80286 and higher microprocessors. In protected mode, the microprocessor can support multitasking and use of memory beyond 1 MB—capabilities otherwise unavailable to programs designed to run under MS-DOS. *See also* protected mode. *Compare* real mode, Virtual Control Program Interface.

DPMS \D`P-M-S´\ *n.* Acronym for VESA **D**isplay **P**ower **M**anagement **S**ignaling. A VESA standard for signals that put a video monitor into "standby" or "suspend" mode to reduce power consumption. *See also* green PC, VESA[2].

DPSK \D`P-S-K´\ *n.* Acronym for **d**ifferential **p**hase-**s**hift **k**eying. *See* phase-shift keying.

draft mode \draft´ mōd\ *n.* A high-speed, relatively low-quality print mode offered by most dot-matrix printers. *See also* dot-matrix printer, draft quality, print quality.

draft quality \draft´ kwäl`ə-tē\ *n.* A low grade of printing generated by the draft mode on dot-matrix printers. Draft quality varies among printers, ranging from suitable for most purposes to nearly useless. *See also* draft mode, print quality.

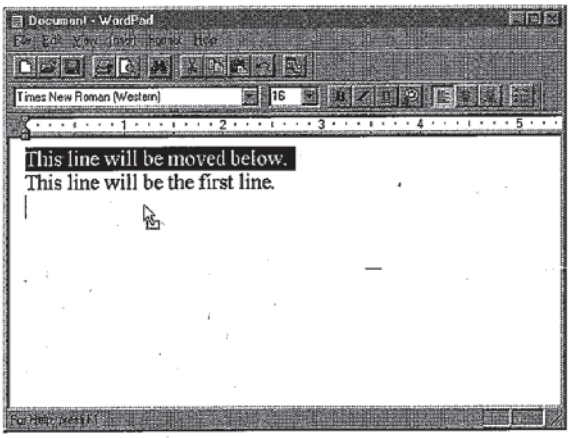
drag \drag\ *vb.* In graphical user interface environments, to move an image or a window from one place on the screen to another by "grabbing" it and pulling it to its new location using the mouse. The mouse pointer is positioned over the object, and the mouse button is pressed and held while the mouse is moved to the new location.

drag-and-drop \drag´ənd-drop`\ *vb.* To perform operations in a graphical user interface by dragging objects on the screen with the mouse. For example, to delete a document in the Mac OS, a user can drag the document icon across the screen and drop it on the trashcan icon. See the illustration. *See also* drag, graphical user interface.

drain \drān\ *n.* **1.** In a FET, the electrode toward which charge carriers (electrons or holes) move from the source under control of the gate. *See also* FET, gate (definition 2), MOSFET, source (definition 2). **2.** *See* current drain.

DRAM \D´ram\ *n. See* dynamic RAM.

DRAW \drä, drô, D`R-A-W´\ *n.* Acronym for **d**irect **r**ead **a**fter **w**rite. A technique used with optical discs to verify the accuracy of information immediately after it has been recorded (written) on the disc. *Compare* DRDW.



Drag-and-drop. ***A text drag-and-drop operation in WordPad.***

drawing interchange format \drä`ēng in´tər-chānj fōr`mat, drô´ēng\ *n. See* DXF.

drawing program \drä´ēng prō`-gram, drô´ēng\ *n.* A program for manipulating object-oriented graphics, as opposed to manipulating pixel images. In a drawing program, for example, the user can manipulate an element, such as a line, a circle, or a block of text, as an independent object simply by selecting the object and moving it. *See also* object-oriented graphics, pixel image, vector graphics.

DRDW \D`R-D-W´\ *n.* Acronym for **d**irect **r**ead **d**uring **w**rite. A technique used with optical discs to verify the accuracy of information at the time it is being recorded on the disc. *Compare* DRAW.

dribbleware \drib´l-wâr`\ *n.* Updates, patches, and new drivers for a software product that are released one at a time, as they become available, rather than being issued together in a new version of the product. A company using the dribbleware technique may distribute new and replacement files on diskette or CD-ROM, or make them available for download through the Internet or a private network. *See also* driver, patch[1].

drift \drift\ *n.* The movement of charge carriers in a semiconductor caused by an applied voltage. The term is also used to refer to any slow, unwanted change in a parameter; for example, the value of a resistor might change, or drift, slightly as the resistor warms or cools.

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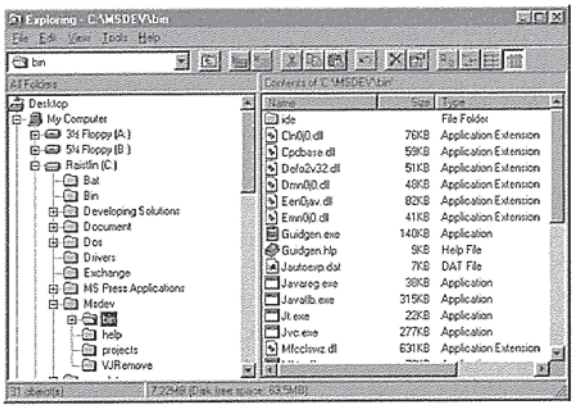
drill down \dril doun´\ *vb.* To start at a top-level menu, directory, or Web page and pass through several intermediate menus, directories, or linked pages, until the file, page, menu command, or other item being sought is reached. Drilling down is common practice in searching for files or information on the Internet, where high-level Gopher menus and World Wide Web pages are frequently very general and become more specific at each lower level. See the illustration. *See also* Gopher, menu, Web page.



Drill down.

drive \drīv\ *n. See* disk drive.

drive bay \drīv´ bā\ *n.* A hollow, rectangular area in a computer chassis designed to hold a disk drive. A drive bay always has side walls, usually made of metal, that generally contain holes to facilitate installation of a disk drive. Some drive bays, such as those intended to hold hard disks, are not visible to the user. Most drives are located on the front of the chassis so that the user can interact with the drive.

drive letter \drīv´ let`ər\ *n.* The naming convention for disk drives on IBM and compatible computers. Drives are named by letter, beginning with A, followed by a colon.

drive mapping \drīv´ map`ēng\ *n.* The assignment of a letter or name to a disk drive so that the operating system or network server can identify and locate it. For example, in PCs, the primary drive mappings are A: and B: for floppy disk drives and C: for the hard disk. *See also* A:, disk drive, hard disk.

drive number \drīv´ num`bər\ *n.* The naming convention for Macintosh disk drives. For example, a two-drive system calls its drives 0 and 1.

driver \drī´vər\ *n.* A hardware device or a program that controls or regulates another device. A line driver, for example, boosts signals transmitted over a communications line. A device driver is a device-specific control program that enables a computer to work with a particular device, such as a printer or a disk drive. *See also* device driver.

DRO \D`R-O´\ *n.* Acronym for **d**estructive **r**ead-**o**ut. *See* destructive read.

drop cap \drop kap´\ *n.* A large capital letter at the beginning of a text block that occupies the vertical depth of two or more lines of regular text. See the illustration.

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Drop cap.

drop-dead halt \drop`ded hält´\ *n. See* dead halt.

drop-down menu \drop´doun men`yo͞o\ *n.* A menu that drops from the menu bar when requested and remains open without further action until the user closes it or chooses a menu item. *Compare* pull-down menu.

drop in \drop in´\ *vb.* To read a spurious signal during a data read/write operation, producing erroneous data.

droplet \drop´lit\ *n.* **1.** An extension for Quark Express that allows files to be dragged onto a page from the finder. **2.** A feature from Frontier that allows scripts to be embedded within an application and run when the application is double-clicked. **3.** A general name for any AppleScript program that allows files to be dragged and dropped into it for processing. *See also* AppleScript.

drop out \drop out´\ *vb.* To lose the signal momentarily during a data read/write operation, thus producing erroneous data.

drum \drum\ *n.* A rotating cylinder used with some printers and plotters and (in the early days

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