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Dictionary of Computer Terms, 6th Edition

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30 Apple Desktop Interface (ADI)

Apple Desktop Interface (ADI) A set of *user interface* guidelines, developed by *Apple Computer* and published by Addison-Wesley, intended to ensure that the appearance and operation of all *Macintosh* applications are similar.

Apple File Exchange A *utility program* provided with each *Macintosh* computer that allows Macs equipped with suitable *floppy disk drives* to exchange *data* with IBM PC-compatible computers.

AppleShare A file server utility for *AppleTalk* networks. *AppleShare* transforms any *Macintosh* on the network into a *dedicated* file server; the server's hard disk icon appears on every network user's desktop.

applet 1. A small- to medium-sized computer program that provides a specific function, such as emulating a calculator. 2. In *Java*, a mini-program embedded in a Web document that, when downloaded, is executed by the browser. Both of the leading browsers (*Netscape Communicator* and *Microsoft Internet Explorer*) can execute *Java applets*. See *Java applet* and *Java application*.

AppleTalk A *local area network (LAN)* standard developed by *Apple Computer*. *AppleTalk* can link as many as 32 *Macintosh* computers, *IBM PC-compatible* computers, and *peripherals* such as *laser printers*. Every *Macintosh* computer has an *AppleTalk* port; the only hardware required for an *AppleTalk* network is a set of *LocalTalk* connectors and ordinary telephone wire for cables (called *twisted-pair* cable). *AppleTalk* networks are simple and inexpensive but quite slow—capable of transmitting only up to 230 *kilobits* per second compared to *EtherTalk*, which is capable of speeds of up to 10 million *bits per second (bps)*.

application A program that enables you to do something useful with the computer, such as writing or accounting (as opposed to *utilities*, programs that help you maintain the computer).

Application Configuration Access Protocol (ACAP) A proposed *Internet* standard that transfers crucial user configuration settings (including *address books*, *bookmarks*, and options choices) to an *Internet-accessible* file. Because these settings are stored on the network instead of the user's computer, they are accessible no matter which computer is being used. *ACAP* will greatly benefit anyone who accesses the *Internet* from more than one computer.

application control menu See *control menu*.

application development system A set of program development tools, typically including a *programming language* with a *compiler*, an extensive library of ready-to-use *programs*, and an application development system that allows you to develop a stand-alone application *module* or program using a language such as C++.

application heap In a *Macintosh*, the area of memory reserved for user *programs*. Synonymous with *memory heap*.

application icon In *Microsoft Windows*, a graphic representation of a minimized *application window* on the *taskbar* to remind you that the application is in memory. *Double-click* the application icon to maximize the application window.

application layer In the *OSI Reference Model* network architecture, the first or top layer, in which the data is presented to the user. It is needed to ensure that products made by different vendors can work together. For example, even though different protocols for sending and receiving data are ready to be sent to the network, the *application layer* protocol stack to the next layer, the *transport layer*.

application program See *application*.

application program interface (API) 1. A set of conventions by which programs communicate with *operating system* or network services. 2. In *Web services*, conventions that enable a *hyperlink* to originate from a server that is external to the server. See *CGI*.

application shortcut key In *Microsoft Windows*, a *key* you assign to launch or bring an application to the foreground. Application shortcut keys are combinations such as *Alt+Q* and *PC Tool* that switch among programs.

application software Programs that perform specific tasks, such as *word processing* or *database management system software*, which runs the computer and which help you maintain and organize data.

However, this limitation restricts Java applets to a relatively trivial level of functionality. Java applets gain increased functionality, and the user's system security is protected by means of *certificates* that attest to the applet's authenticity.

Java applet A small program (*applet*) that is designed for distribution on the *World Wide Web (WWW)* and for interpretation by a Java-capable *Web browser*, such as *Microsoft Internet Explorer* or *Netscape Navigator*. Java applets execute within the browser window and seamlessly add functionality to Web pages. However, their functionality is restricted due to security restrictions, which prevent applets from gaining access to the computer's file system. See *Java application*.

Java application A Java program that, unlike a *Java applet*, executes in its own window and possesses full access to the computer's file system. To run a Java application, the user's computer must be equipped with a stand-alone Java interpreter, such as the one included with the *Java Development Kit (JDK)*. If Java applications are written in conformity to Sun's *100% Pure Java* specifications, they will run on any computer that is capable of running a Java interpreter.

JavaBean A *reusable object*, created with *Java* and in conformity to Sun's *100% Pure Java* specifications, that is packaged according to the *JavaBeans* specifications. A *JavaBean* differs from a *Java applet* in that it has *persistence* (it remains on the user's system after execution). Additionally, Beans are capable of communicating and exchanging data with other *JavaBeans* by means of *interprocess communication*. In this sense a *JavaBean* is similar to an *ActiveX control*, but with a very important exception: unlike *ActiveX* controls, which execute only on computers that support *Object Linking and Embedding (OLE)* at the *operating system* level, a *JavaBean* will execute on any computer platform that is capable of running a Java interpreter. Users will find that Beans seamlessly add functionality to Beans-aware applications, while developers can quickly create applications by combining Bean components.

JavaBeans A *component architecture* for *Java applets* and *Java applications* that enables Java programmers to package Java programs in a container, similar to *ActiveX*, for increased interoperability with other *objects* and improved security. Java development environments that conform to the *JavaBeans* specification enable programmers to create Beans, which are reusable Java-based

components that are capable of exchanging components.

Java Development Kit (JDK) A package of development tools, created by Sun Microsystems, that is available free of charge, that represents the *de facto* standard for the Java programming language. The package contains the *Java Virtual Machine* and enables users to run *Java applications*.

JavaScript A *scripting language* for Web pages, created by Netscape Communications, that enables users to add simple *Java-like* programming instructions to the HTML text of their Web pages. Originally called *Netscape LiveWire*, it was made more *Java-like* after Netscape announced that *Java* would succeed, but *JavaScript* lacks the *inheritance* capabilities of *Java* and is, at least in the early version, interpreted much more slowly than *Java*, which is a compiled language. *JavaScript* is an interpreted language, and it requires its own interpreter, which is built into popular Web browsers. However, it has not been effectively standardized yet; Microsoft has a version called *Jscript* for implementation in *Internet Explorer*, and this version reportedly differs from *JavaScript* that *Jscript* programs may not run in other browsers. Until recently a *de facto* standard has been submitted to the European Committee for Standardization (ECMA) for standardization.

JavaScript style sheet (JSS) A proposed standard for *World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)* style sheets (*CSS*). *JSS* is designed to enable users to create dynamic effects by including *JavaScript* in various style definitions. See *style sheet*.

JavaSoft A subsidiary of *Sun Microsystems* that is responsible for developing and promoting the *Java* platform and related products.

Java Virtual Machine (VM) A *virtual machine* environment for *Java applets* and *Java applications*. It is called a virtual machine because, no matter what computer it is running on, it creates a simulated environment that provides the correct platform for executing *Java* code. In addition, this approach insulates the code from the host operating system. *Java VMs* are available for a wide variety of platforms.