automatically from a description of the application. In *database management programs,* for example, you can use simple program generation techniques to describe the format you want graphically. The program generator then uses your input as a set of *parameters* by which to build the output program code.

program information file (PIF)   A *file* available for non-*Windows application* programs that tells Windows how to run them. *Microsoft Windows 95* can run DOS applications even without a PIF file.

programming   The process of providing instructions to the computer that tell the *microprocessor* what to do. Stages in programming include design, or making decisions about what the program should accomplish; coding, or using a programming language to express the program's logic in computer-readable form and entering internal documentation for the commands; testing and debugging, in which the program's flaws are discovered and corrected; and documentation, in which an instructional manual for the program is created, either in print or on-screen.