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**task swapping** The act of changing from one task (2) to another by copying or saving the data of one program, then loading another program.

**task switching** The act of changing from one task (2) to another. For instance, the switching from a word-processing program to a Web browser, with both programs running before and after the switch. Also called **context switching**.

**taskbar** A toolbar which displays the applications which are currently running, in addition to providing access to other applications which may have a small icon present. A user simply clicks with the mouse, or its equivalent, to make selections. There may also be other information present, such as the time and date, status of a modem, and so on. A taskbar may be adjusted in size, and is usually located at the bottom of a computer screen, but can be placed elsewhere. Also spelled **task bar**.

**taut-band meter** A meter, such as certain galvanometers, whose moving element is suspended and kept taut. For instance, such a meter may incorporate a coil whose movements or twisting are correlated to its output readings.

**Tb** 1. Chemical symbol for **terbium**. 2. Abbreviation of **terabit**.

**TB** Abbreviation of **terabyte**.

**Tbit** Abbreviation of **terabit**.

**Tbps** Abbreviation of **terabits per second**.

**TBps** Abbreviation of **terabytes per second**.

**Tbyte** Abbreviation of **terabyte**.

**Tc** Chemical symbol for **technetium**.

**TC** Abbreviation of **temperature coefficient**.

**TCG** Abbreviation of **time-code generator**.

**TCM** Abbreviation of **Trellis-Coded Modulation**.

**TCO** Abbreviation of **total cost of ownership**.

**TCP** Abbreviation of **Transmission Control Protocol**. Within the **TCP/IP** protocol, the protocol which handles the task of delivering the data. TCP keeps track of the packets that a given message is divided into, to ensure proper routing, and that the entire message is properly reassembled. TCP works at the transport-layer within the OSI model. Also called **TCP protocol**.

**TCP/IP** Abbreviation of **Transmission Control Protocol over Internet Protocol**. A set of protocols which enable different types of computer systems to communicate via different types of computer networks. TCP works at the transport-layer within the OSI model, while IP does so at the network layer. The TCP/IP suite may include other protocols, such as UDP, or RTSP. It is currently the most widely used protocol for delivery of data over networks, including the Internet. Also called **TCP/IP protocol**.

**TCP/IP protocol** Same as **TCP/IP**.

**TCP/IP stack** A group of protocols working together within **TCP/IP**. Such a stack, in addition to TCP and IP protocols, may include DHCP, UDP, FTP, RTSP, and so on.

**TCP protocol** Same as **TCP**.

**TCS** 1. Abbreviation of **trusted computer system**. 2. Abbreviation of **transmission convergence sublayer**.

**TCXO** 1. Abbreviation of **temperature-compensated crystal oscillator**. 2. Abbreviation of **temperature-controlled crystal oscillator**.

**TD-SCDMA** Abbreviation of **time-division synchronous code division multiple access**. A technology combining TDMA and CDMA in a 3G technology.

**TDD** 1. Abbreviation of **Telecommunications Device for the Deaf**. 2. Abbreviation of **time-division duplexing**. 3. Abbreviation of **time-division duplex**.

**TDES** Abbreviation of **Triple DES**.

**TDM** 1. Abbreviation of **time-division multiplexing**. 2. Abbreviation of **time-division multiplex**. 3. Abbreviation of **time-division multiplexer**.

**TDMA** Abbreviation of **time-division multiple access**.

**TDR** 1. Abbreviation of **time-domain reflectometry**. 2. Abbreviation of **time-domain reflectometer**. 3. Abbreviation of **time-delay relay**.

**TDS** 1. Abbreviation of **time-division switching**. 2. Abbreviation of **time-delay spectrometry**.

**Te** Chemical symbol for **tellurium**.

**TE** Abbreviation of **terminal equipment**.

**TE mode** Abbreviation of **transverse electric mode**.

**TE wave** Abbreviation of **transverse electric wave**.

**TEA laser** Abbreviation of **transversely-excited atmosphere laser**.

**teach box** A device which is utilized to program mechanical motions into computers, such as robot controllers. Used, for instance, for subsequent task execution by programmable robots.

**teach pendant** A handheld control panel utilized to guide a robot through the steps required to complete a task. It is connected to the robot by means of a suspended cable. All motions are recorded by the robot for future reference.

**teamware** Software designed to facilitate groups of people, often in different locations, to work together on one more projects. Such software includes emailing, scheduling, file transferring, application sharing, conferencing, the use of a whiteboard, and so on. Also called **groupware**, or **work-group software**.

**tear down** In communications, to end a physical or logical connection, such as that utilized for a telephone call or network access. To **setup** (3) is to establish such a connection.

**tear-off menu** In a GUI, a menu which can be moved, and possibly resized. Used, for instance, for optimal positioning of tools when switching frequently between a tool palette and an image being edited. Also spelled **tearoff menu**.

**tearing** In TV, a form of distortion in which groups of horizontal lines are displaced in an irregular manner, resembling the ripping of a fabric. It is caused by improper horizontal sync.

**tearoff menu** Same as **tear-off menu**.

**tebi-** A binary prefix meaning  $2^{40}$ , or 1,099,511,627,776. For example, a **tebibyte** is equal to  $2^{40}$ , or 1,099,511,627,776 bytes. This prefix is utilized to refer to only binary quantities, such bits and bytes. Its abbreviation is **Ti-**.

**tebibyte**  $2^{40}$ , or 1,099,511,627,776 bytes. Its abbreviation is **TiB**.

**tech support** Abbreviation of **technical support**.

**technetium** A silver-gray radioactive metal whose atomic number is 43. It has close to 30 known isotopes, all unstable, and is used in nuclear medicine, tracer studies, lasers, and superconductors. Its chemical symbol is **Tc**.

**technical support** The technical help a provider of hardware, software, network services, or the like, is supposed to provide to customers. Its abbreviation is **tech support**.

**technobabble** Terminology which is specialized to a given field, such as computers or communications, and which is usually not understood by those not sufficiently familiar with said field. Such terms are often utilized improperly to confuse, intimidate, marginalize, or otherwise make a person uncomfortable.

**technological** Pertaining to, incorporating, affected by, or arising from **technology**.

**technology** 1. The application of science, engineering, and other areas of expertise to the creation and improvement of that which is utilized for commerce and/or industry. 2. A specific technological method, technique, use, or approach