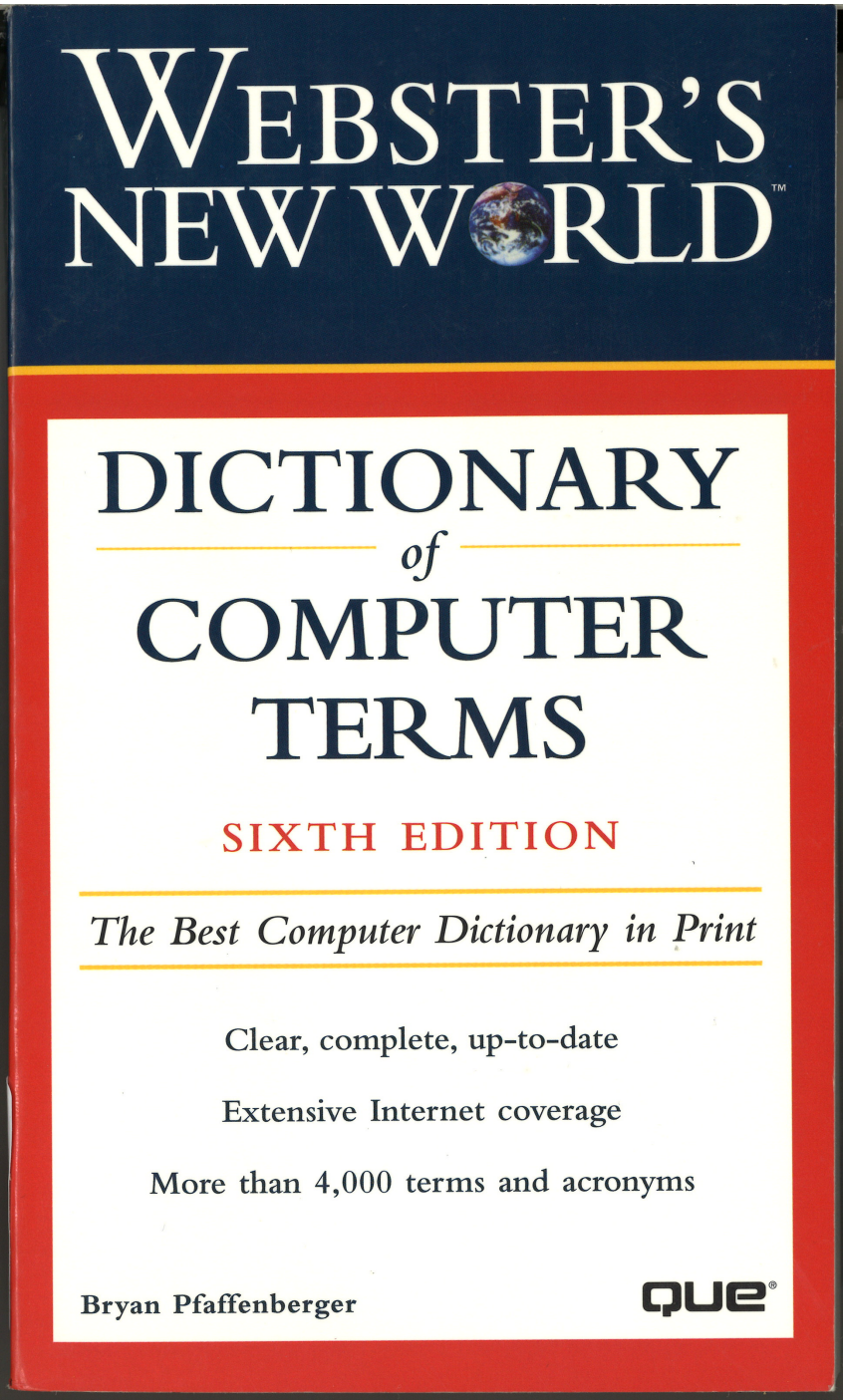

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Webster's New World™

Dictionary of Computer Terms, 6th Edition

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Cancelmoose In *Usenet*, an individual, whose identity remains unknown, who takes upon himself the task of canceling articles that are inappropriately posted to a large number of *newsgroups* (this is called *spamming*). Although Usenet software ordinarily permits only the author of an article to cancel it (remove it from *Usenet*), Cancelmoose has devised ingenious software (called a *cancelbot*) that gets around this restriction, allowing him or her to cancel any person's articles. Although the Cancelmoose's actions are controversial, many *Usenet* participants believe that his or her actions are fully justified.

canonical form In mathematics and *programming*, an expression that conforms to established principles learned only through practice, apprenticeship, and interaction with experts. It's possible to write a programming expression that's entirely functional but not in canonical form, thus preventing social acceptance in learned mathematical and computer science societies. Most people, however, are concerned with getting the right answer.

canonical name In the *Internet*, the official name of an Internet *host*, as opposed to its aliases.

cap height In a *typeface*, the height of capital letters, measured in *points*, from the *baseline*.

Caps Lock key A *toggle key* that locks the *keyboard* so that you can enter uppercase letters without pressing the *Shift key*. When you're in uppercase mode, most keyboards have a light that illuminates; many programs also display a message, such as CAPS LOCK or CAPS. The Caps Lock key has no effect on the number and punctuation keys.

caption In *desktop publishing (DTP)*, a descriptive phrase that identifies a figure, such as a photograph, illustration, or graph.

capture 1. In *modem* communications, to record what happens on the *monitor* and store it in a *file* that can be viewed later. Capturing data is useful if you're paying a per-minute connection charge. 2. In computer graphics, to copy all or part of an image on-screen and convert it to a *graphics file format* to insert in a *document* or save on a disk.

Carbon Copy A *remote control program* that enables Windows users to operate a computer from a remote location via a dialup modem connection or an Internet connection.

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