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real-time clock *n.* See clock (definition 2).

real-time conferencing *n.* See teleconferencing.

Real-Time Control Protocol *n.* A scalable transport control protocol that works with the Real-Time Protocol (RTP) to monitor real-time transmissions to multiple participants over a network—for example, during videoconferencing. The Real-Time Control Protocol, or RTCP, transmits packets of control information at regular intervals and is used to determine how well information is being delivered to recipients. *Acronym:* RTCP. See also Real-Time Protocol, Real-Time Streaming Protocol, Resource Reservation Setup Protocol.

real-time operating system *n.* An operating system designed or optimized for the needs of a process-control environment. See also real-time system.

Real-Time Protocol *n.* An Internet-standard network transport protocol used in delivering real-time data, including audio and video. The Real-Time Protocol, or RTP, works with both unicast (single sender, single recipient) and multicast (single sender, multiple recipient) services. RTP is often used in conjunction with the Real-Time Control Protocol (RTCP), which monitors delivery. *Acronym:* RTP. See also Real-Time Control Protocol, Real-Time Streaming Protocol, stream.

Real-Time Streaming Protocol *n.* A control protocol for the delivery of streamed multimedia data over Internet Protocol (IP) networks. The Real-Time Streaming Protocol, or RTSP, was developed by Columbia University, Progressive Networks, and Netscape and has been submitted as a proposed standard to the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force). RTSP is designed to deliver real-time, live, or stored audio and video efficiently over a network. It can be used either for groups of recipients or for on-demand delivery to a single recipient. *Acronym:* RTSP. See also Advanced Streaming Format, Real-Time Protocol, Resource Reservation Setup Protocol, stream.

real-time system *n.* A computer and/or a software system that reacts to events before the events become obsolete. For example, airline collision avoidance systems must process radar input, detect a possible collision, and warn air traffic controllers or pilots while they still have time to react.

reboot *vb.* To restart a computer by reloading the operating system. See also boot², cold boot, warm boot.

receipt notification *n.* An e-mail feature providing feedback to the sender that a message has been received by the recipient.

receive *vb.* To accept data from an external communications system, such as a local area network (LAN) or a telephone line, and store the data as a file.

Receive Data *n.* See RXD.

rec. newsgroups *n.* Usenet newsgroups that are part of the rec. hierarchy and whose names have the prefix *rec.* These newsgroups cover topics devoted to discussions of recreational activities, hobbies, and the arts. See also newsgroup, traditional newsgroup hierarchy, Usenet. Compare comp. newsgroups, misc. newsgroups, news. newsgroups, sci. newsgroups, soc. newsgroups, talk. newsgroups.

recompile *vb.* To compile a program again, usually because of changes that need to be made in the source code in response to error messages generated by the compiler. See also compile.

record¹ *n.* A data structure that is a collection of fields (elements), each with its own name and type. Unlike an array, whose elements all represent the same type of information and are accessed using an index, the elements of a record represent different types of information and are accessed by name. A record can be accessed as a collective unit of elements, or the elements can be accessed individually. See also array, data structure, type¹ (definition 1).

record² *vb.* To retain information, usually in a file.

record format *n.* See record structure.

record head *n.* The device in a tape machine that places data on the tape. In some tape machines, the record head is combined with the read head.

record layout *n.* The organization of data fields within a record. See also record¹.

record length *n.* The amount of storage space required to contain a record, typically given in bytes. See also record¹.

record locking *n.* A strategy employed in distributed processing and other multiuser situations to prevent more than one user at a time from writing data to a record. See also record¹.

record number *n.* A unique number assigned to a record in a database in order to identify it. A record number can identify an existing record by its position (for example, the tenth record from the beginning of

Resource Reservation Setup Protocol *n.* A communications protocol designed to allow for “bandwidth on demand.” A remote receiver requests that a certain amount of bandwidth be reserved by the server for a data stream; the server sends back a message (similar to the RSVP sent in reply to an invitation) indicating whether or not the request has been granted. *Acronym:* RSVP (Resource Reservation Setup Protocol).

resource sharing *n.* The act of making files, printers, and other network resources available for use by others.

resource type *n.* One of numerous classes of structural and procedural resources in the Macintosh operating system, such as code, fonts, windows, dialog boxes, templates, icons, patterns, strings, drivers, cursors, color tables, and menus. Resource types have characteristic identifying labels, such as CODE for blocks of program instructions, FONT for fonts, CURS for mouse cursors, and so on. *See also* resource (definition 2), resource fork.

response time *n.* **1.** The time, often an average, that elapses between the issuance of a request and the provision of the data requested (or notification of inability to provide it). **2.** The time required for a memory circuit or storage device to furnish data requested by the central processing unit (CPU).

restart *vb.* *See* reboot.

restore¹ *n.* The act of restoring a file or files. *See also* backup, recovery.

restore² *vb.* To copy files from a backup storage device to their normal location, especially if the files are being copied to replace files that were accidentally lost or deleted.

restricted function *n.* A function or an operation that can be executed only under certain circumstances, especially when the central processing unit (CPU) is in privileged mode. *See also* privileged mode.

Restructured Extended Executor *n.* *See* REXX.

retrace *n.* The path followed by the electron beam in a raster-scan computer monitor as it returns either from the right to the left edge of the screen or from the bottom to the top of the screen. The retrace positions the electron beam for its next sweep across or down the screen; during this interval, the beam is briefly turned off to avoid drawing an unwanted line on the screen. Retracing occurs many times each second and uses tightly synchronized signals to ensure

that the electron beam is turned off and on during the retrace. *See also* blanking, horizontal retrace, raster display, vertical retrace.

retrieve *vb.* To obtain a specific requested item or set of data by locating it and returning it to a program or to the user. Computers can retrieve information from any source of storage—disks, tapes, or memory.

return *vb.* **1.** To transfer control of the system from a called routine or program back to the calling routine or program. Some languages support an explicit *return* or *exit* statement; others allow return only at the end (last statement) of the called routine or program. *See also* call² (definition 2). **2.** To report the outcome of a called routine to the calling routine or program.

return code *n.* In programming, a code that is used to report the outcome of a procedure or to influence subsequent events when a routine or process terminates (returns) and passes control of the system to another routine. Return codes can, for example, indicate whether an operation was successful or not and can thus be used to determine what is to be done next.

return from the dead *vb.* To regain access to the Internet after having been disconnected.

Return key *n.* A key on a keyboard that is used to terminate input of a field or record or to execute the default action of a dialog box. On IBM Personal Computers and compatibles, this key is called ENTER. The corresponding key on a typewriter causes the carriage holding the paper to return to the starting position to begin a new line; hence the name. *See also* Enter key.

return to zero *n.* Abbreviated RZ. A method of recording on magnetic media in which the reference condition, or “neutral” state, is the absence of magnetization. *Compare* nonreturn to zero.

reusability *n.* The ability of code or a design to be usable again in another application or system.

Reverse Address Recognition Protocol *n.* *See* RARP.

Reverse ARP *n.* *See* RARP.

reverse byte ordering *n.* *See* little endian.

reverse engineering *n.* A method of analyzing a product in which the finished item is studied to determine its makeup or component parts—for example, studying a completed ROM chip to determine its programming or studying a new computer system to learn about its design. For computer software, “reverse engineering” typically involves decompilation of a