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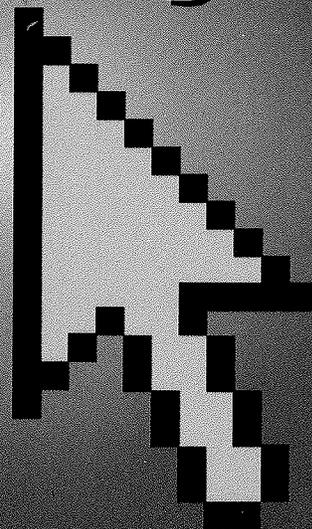
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Web page, including such features as providing a form that users can fill out, image maps that contain links to other Web pages or resources, and links that users can click on to send e-mail to a specified address. ActiveX controls and Java applets can provide much the same functionality as CGI scripts, through different means. *See also* CGI (definition 1), cgi-bin, image map, Perl. *Compare* ActiveX control, Java applet.

CGM *n.* *See* Computer Graphics Metafile.

chad *n.* The paper removed when a hole is punched in a card, in a tape, or at the perforated edge of continuous-form paper—the computer equivalent of a doughnut hole.

chaining *n.* **1.** In computers, the linking of two or more entities so that they are dependent upon one another for operation. **2.** In programming, the linking of two or more programs so that the first program causes the second program to begin executing. **3.** In programming, linking program statements so that each statement, except for the first, relies on the previous statement for input. **4.** With batch files, linking two or more batch files so that the completion of the first batch file causes the second batch file to begin executing. **5.** With data storage, linking two or more individual units of storage. For example, a single file on a disk may actually be stored on several different sectors of the disk, each of which points to the next sector containing a piece of that file. These sectors are said to be chained together, or, more literally, to be a chain of clusters. **6.** *See* daisy chaining.

chain printer *n.* *See* line printer.

chalkware *n.* *See* vaporware.

Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol *n.* An authentication scheme used by PPP servers to validate the identity of the originator of a connection, upon connection or any time later. *Acronym:* CHAP. *See also* authentication, PPP.

change directory *n.* *See* cd.

change file *n.* A file that records transactional changes occurring in a database, providing a basis for updating a master file and establishing an audit trail. *Also called:* transaction log. *See also* addition record.

change management *n.* **1.** The process of tracking and controlling updates, revisions, and other changes to a hardware or software product or project. **2.** The process of managing change during a company's restructuring or reengineering.

channel *n.* **1.** A path or link through which information passes between two devices. A channel can be either internal or external to a microcomputer. **2.** In communications, a medium for transferring information. Depending on its type, a communications channel can carry information (data, sound, and/or video) in either analog or digital form. A communications channel can be a physical link, such as the cable connecting two stations in a network, or it can consist of some electromagnetic transmission on one or more frequencies within a bandwidth in the electromagnetic spectrum, as in radio and television, or in optical, microwave, or voice-grade communication. *Also called:* circuit, line. *See also* analog, band, bandwidth, digital, electromagnetic spectrum, frequency. **3.** A single color within a digital color space. For example, the RGB color space contains three channels—red, green, and blue—and all colors within the RGB color space are created with a combination of one or more of those three color channels. In CMYK there are four channels—cyan, magenta, yellow, and black. Color management and graphics applications rely on control and manipulation of individual color channels. *See also* color space.

channel access *n.* **1.** A method used in networked systems to gain access to the data communication channel that links two or more computers. Common methods of channel access are contention, polling, and the token ring network. *See also* channel, contention, polling, token ring network. **2.** In wireless technology, an access method such as CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access). *See also* Code Division Multiple Access.

channel adapter *n.* A device that enables hardware using two different types of communications channels to communicate.

channel aggregator *n.* *See* content aggregator.

channel capacity *n.* The speed at which a communications channel can transfer information, measured in bits per second (bps) or in baud.

Channel Definition Format *n.* A file format based on XML that describes a channel—a collection of Web pages—on a server. The Channel Definition Format is used with the Active Channel feature in Microsoft Internet Explorer to deliver selected, often personalized, information to individuals on a subscription basis. *See also* Active Channel, webcasting.

channel hop *vb.* To switch repeatedly from one IRC channel to another. *See also* IRC.

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for microcomputers based on Intel microprocessors. The first system, CP/M-80, was the most popular operating system for 8080- and Z80-based microcomputers. Digital Research also developed CP/M-86 for 8086/8088-based computers, CP/M-Z8000 for Zilog Z8000-based computers, and CP/M-68K for Motorola 68000-based computers. When the IBM PC and MS-DOS were introduced, common use of CP/M by end users dwindled. DRI continues to enhance the CP/M line, supporting multitasking with the Concurrent CP/M and MP/M products. *See also* MP/M.

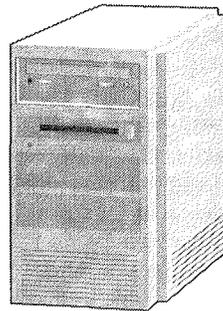
CPM *n.* *See* critical path method.

CPRM *n.* Acronym for **C**ontent **P**rotection for **R**ecordable **M**edia. Technology developed to control the use of copyrighted digital music and video material by blocking the transfer of protected files to portable media such as zip disks and smart cards. CPRM would be added to storage devices and provide data scrambling and identification codes to block the copying of copyrighted files.

cps *n.* *See* characters per second.

CPSR *n.* Acronym for **C**omputer **P**rofessionals for **S**ocial **R**esponsibility. A public advocacy organization of computer professionals. CPSR was originally formed out of concern over the use of computer technology for military purposes but has extended its interest to such issues as civil liberties and the effect of computers on workers.

CPU *n.* Acronym for **c**entral **p**rocessing **u**nit. The computational and control unit of a computer. **The CPU is the device that interprets and executes instructions.** Mainframes and early minicomputers contained circuit boards full of integrated circuits that implemented the CPU. Single-chip central processing units, called *microprocessors*, made possible personal computers and workstations. Examples of single-chip CPUs are the Motorola 68000, 68020, and 68030 chips and the Intel 8080, 8086, 80286, 80386, and i486 chips. **The CPU—or microprocessor, in the case of a microcomputer—has the ability to fetch, decode, and execute instructions and to transfer information to and from other resources over the computer's main data-transfer path, the bus.** By definition, the CPU is the chip that functions as the “brain” of a computer. In some instances, however, the term encompasses both the processor and the computer's memory or, even more broadly, the main computer console (as opposed to peripheral equipment). *See* the illustration. *See also* microprocessor.



CPU.

CPU-bound *adj.* *See* computation-bound.

CPU cache *n.* A section of fast memory linking the CPU (central processing unit) and main memory that temporarily stores data and instructions the CPU needs to execute upcoming commands and programs. Considerably faster than main memory, the CPU cache contains data that is transferred in blocks, thereby speeding execution. The system anticipates the data it will need through algorithms. *Also called:* cache memory, memory cache. *See also* cache, CPU, VCACHE.

CPU cycle *n.* **1.** The smallest unit of time recognized by the CPU (central processing unit)—typically a few hundred-millionths of a second. **2.** The time required for the CPU to perform the simplest instruction, such as fetching the contents of a register or performing a no-operation instruction (NOP). *Also called:* clock tick.

CPU fan *n.* An electric fan usually placed directly on a CPU (central processing unit) or on the CPU's heat sink to help dissipate heat from the chip by circulating air around it. *See also* CPU, heat sink.

CPU speed *n.* A relative measure of the data-processing capacity of a particular CPU (central processing unit), usually measured in megahertz. *See also* CPU.

CPU time *n.* In multiprocessing, the amount of time during which a particular process has active control of the CPU (central processing unit). *See also* CPU, multiprocessing.

CR *n.* *See* carriage return.

crack *vb.* **1.** To gain unauthorized access to a network by breaching its security. **2.** To decipher encrypted information.

cracker *n.* A person who overcomes the security measures of a computer system and gains unauthorized access. The goal of some crackers is to obtain information ille-

online transaction processing *n.* See OLTP.

on-screen keyboard *n.* An interactive keyboard that appears as a graphical image on the display screen of a computing device. A user spells words by tapping the letters on the screen with a stylus. On-screen keyboards appear primarily on personal digital assistants (PDAs) and other handheld computing devices that are too small to contain a traditional keyboard.

on the fly *adv.* Doing a task or process as needed without suspending or disturbing normal operations. For example, it is often said that an HTML document can be edited on the fly because its content can be revised without the need to completely shut down or re-create the Web site on which it resides. See also HTML document, Web site.

OO *adj.* See object-oriented.

OOP *n.* See object-oriented programming.

OPA *n.* Acronym for Online Privacy Alliance. An organization of over eighty Internet companies and trade associations created to be the voice of the industry on digital privacy issues. The OPA stresses the need for consumer trust and encourages online businesses to post privacy policies. The OPA created a set of guidelines for privacy policies that have become the industry standard.

opacity *n.* The quality that defines how much light passes through an object's pixels. If an object is 100 percent opaque, no light passes through it.

opcode *n.* See operation code.

open¹ *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or providing accessibility. For example, an open file is one that can be used because a program has issued an open file command to the operating system.

open² *vb.* To make an object, such as a file, accessible.

Open Applications Group, Inc. *n.* See OAGI.

open architecture *n.* 1. Any computer or peripheral design that has published specifications. A published specification lets third parties develop add-on hardware for a computer or device. Compare closed architecture (definition 1). 2. A design that provides for expansion slots on the motherboard, thereby allowing the addition of boards to enhance or customize a system. Compare closed architecture (definition 2).

OpenCyc *n.* An open source artificial intelligence platform. OpenCyc forms the foundation of knowledge-dependent applications such as speech understanding,

database integration, and e-mail routing and prioritizing. OpenCyc development is administered through OpenCyc.org.

Open Data-link Interface *n.* See ODI.

OpenDoc *n.* An object-oriented application programming interface (API) that enables multiple independent programs (component software) on several platforms to work together on a single document (compound document). Similar to OLE, OpenDoc allows images, sound, video, other documents, and other files to be embedded or linked to the document. OpenDoc is supported by an alliance that includes Apple, IBM, the Object Management Group, and the X Consortium. See also application programming interface, component software. Compare ActiveX, OLE.

Open Document Management API *n.* See ODMA.

open file *n.* A file that can be read from, written to, or both. A program must first open a file before the file's contents can be used, and it must close the file when done. See also open².

Open Financial Connectivity *n.* The Microsoft specification for an interface between electronic banking services and Microsoft Money personal finance software. *Acronym:* OFC.

OpenGL *n.* An industry standard application programming interface (API) for 3D graphics rendering and 3D hardware acceleration. OpenGL is cross-platform and is available for all major operating systems.

Open Group *n.* A consortium of computer hardware and software manufacturers and users from industry, government, and academia that is dedicated to the advancement of multi-vendor information systems. The Open Group was formed in 1996 as a consolidation of the Open Software Foundation and X/Open Company Limited.

OpenMPEG Consortium *n.* An international organization of hardware and software developers for promoting the use of the MPEG standards. *Acronym:* OM-1. See also MPEG.

Open Prepress Interface *n.* See OPI.

Open Profiling Standard *n.* An Internet personalization and privacy specification submitted for consideration to the World Wide Web Consortium by Netscape Communications Corporation, Firefly Network, Inc., and VeriSign, Inc. Open Profiling Standard (OPS) enables users to customize online services while protecting their privacy. To



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