



Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition

- Fully updated with the latest technologies, terms, and acronyms
- Easy to read, expertly illustrated
- Definitive coverage of hardware, software, the Internet, and more!



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(Web) server, is passed from one server to the next. *See also* news feed, newsgroup, server.

downstream² *adv.* **1.** The location of a client computer in relation to a server. **2.** The direction in which data moves from the server to the client.

downstream³ *adj.* Refers to data that moves *from* a remote network *to* an individual computer. In some Internet-related communications technologies, data flows more quickly downstream than upstream; cable modems, for example, can transfer data as fast as 30 Mbps downstream but support much slower rates, from 128 Kbps to around 2 Mbps, upstream. *Compare* upstream.

downtime *n.* The amount or percentage of time a computer system or associated hardware remains nonfunctional. Although downtime can occur because hardware fails unexpectedly, it can also be a scheduled event, as when a network is shut down to allow time for maintenance.

downward compatibility *n.* The capability of source code or programs developed on a more advanced system or compiler version to be executed or compiled by a less advanced (older) version. *Compare* upward-compatible.

DP *n.* *See* data processing.

dpi *n.* *See* dots per inch.

DPMA *n.* Acronym for **Data Processing Management Association**. A trade organization of information systems (IS) professionals. DPMA was founded in 1951 as the National Machine Accountants Association.

DPMI *n.* *See* DOS Protected Mode Interface.

DPMS *n.* Acronym for **VESA Display Power Management Signaling**. A VESA standard for signals that put a video monitor into “standby” or suspend mode to reduce power consumption. *See also* green PC, VESA².

DPOF *n.* Short for **Digital Print Order Format**. A printing specification developed by Canon Computer Systems, Inc., Eastman Kodak Company, Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd., and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. DPOF is intended to ease the process of printing images stored on digital camera memory cards by enabling users to select the images to print, as well as specify the number of copies desired, on the card. The images ordered can then be printed by a professional photofinishing service or on a home printer.

DPSK *n.* Acronym for **differential phase-shift keying**. *See* phase-shift keying.

draft mode *n.* A high-speed, relatively low-quality print mode offered by most dot-matrix printers. *See also* dot-matrix printer, draft quality, print quality.

draft quality *n.* A low grade of printing generated by the draft mode on dot-matrix printers. Draft quality varies among printers, ranging from suitable for most purposes to nearly useless. *See also* draft mode, print quality.

drag *vb.* In graphical user interface environments, to move an image or a window from one place on the screen to another by “grabbing” it and pulling it to its new location using the mouse. The mouse pointer is positioned over the object, and the mouse button is pressed and held while the mouse is moved to the new location.

drag-and-drop *vb.* **1.** In general, to delve into something in increasing detail. **2.** More specifically, to perform operations in a graphical user interface by dragging objects on the screen with the mouse. For example, to delete a document, a user can drag the document icon across the screen and drop it on the trashcan icon (Macintosh OS) or in the Recycle Bin (Windows). *See also* drag, graphical user interface.

drain *n.* **1.** In an FET, the electrode toward which charge carriers (electrons or holes) move from the source under control of the gate. *See also* FET, gate (definition 2), MOSFET, source (definition 2). **2.** *See* current drain.

DRAM *n.* *See* dynamic RAM.

DRAW *n.* Acronym for **direct read after write**. A technique used with optical discs to verify the accuracy of information immediately after it has been recorded (written) on the disc. *Compare* DRDW.

drawer *n.* In the Mac OS X Aqua interface, small child windows containing extra information that slide out of the side of main parent windows. Drawers are intended to reduce clutter on the computer desktop by enabling more information to be displayed without opening additional full-sized windows. *Also called:* Drop Drawer.

drawing interchange format *n.* *See* DXF.

drawing program *n.* A program for manipulating object-oriented graphics, as opposed to manipulating pixel images. In a drawing program, for example, the user can manipulate an element, such as a line, a circle, or a block of text, as an independent object simply by selecting the object and moving it. *See also* object-oriented graphics, pixel image, vector graphics.

upload² *vb.* To transfer a copy of a file from a local computer to a remote computer. *Compare* download.

UPnP *n.* Acronym for **Universal Plug and Play**. A Microsoft initiative which prompted the creation of the UPnP Forum for interconnecting computers, appliances, networks, and services. UPnP extends conventional Plug and Play to include devices connected to networks. It allows peripheral devices to discover and connect to other devices and to enumerate the characteristics of those devices. UPnP is intended to be an element of home networking, in which PCs, appliances, and the services they provide are linked together.

UPnP Device Architecture *n.* A specification developed by the Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) Forum that defines the structure of UPnP networking. The UPnP Device Architecture, formerly known as the DCP Framework, provides information about discovery, description, control, eventing, and presentation in a UPnP network. *See also* UPnP networking.

UPnP Forum *n.* A consortium of companies and individuals that oversees Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) specifications, protocols, logos, sample implementations, test suites, white papers, and other UPnP-related efforts. *See also* UPnP, UPnP Device Architecture, UPnP networking.

UPnP networking *n.* The peer-to-peer networking of intelligent machines, appliances, wireless devices, computers, and other devices according to the Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) Device Architecture. UPnP networking uses control points, devices, services, and protocols including GENA, SOAP, SSDP, standard TCP/IP, and other Internet protocols. *See also* UPnP Device Architecture.

uppercase *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characterized by capital letters. *Compare* lowercase.

upper memory area *n.* *See* UMA (definition 1).

upper memory block *n.* *See* UMB.

UPS *n.* Acronym for **uninterruptible power supply**. A device, connected between a computer (or other electronic equipment) and a power source (usually an outlet receptacle), that ensures that electrical flow to the computer is not interrupted because of a blackout and, in most cases, protects the computer against potentially damaging events, such as power surges and brownouts. All UPS units are equipped with a battery and a loss-of-power sensor; if the sensor detects a loss of power, it switches over to the battery so that the user has time to save his or her work and shut off the computer. *See also* blackout, brownout.

upstream¹ *n.* The direction in which information is delivered from a client to a (Web) server. *Compare* downstream¹.

upstream² *adj.* **1.** The location of a server in relation to another server. *Compare* downstream² (definition 1). **2.** The direction in which data moves *from* an individual computer *to* the remote network. With certain communications technologies, such as ADSL, cable modems, and high-speed 56-Kbps modems, data flows upstream more slowly than downstream. For example, a 56-Kbps modem can deliver data at a 56-Kbps maximum only downstream; upstream, it delivers data at either 28.8 or 33.6 Kbps. *Compare* downstream² (definition 2).

uptime *n.* The amount or percentage of time a computer system or associated hardware is functioning and available for use. *Compare* downtime.

upward-compatible *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a computer product, especially software, designed to perform adequately with other products that are expected to become widely used in the foreseeable future. The use of standards and conventions makes upward compatibility easier to achieve.

urban legend *n.* A widely distributed story that remains in circulation in spite of the fact that it is not true. Many urban legends have been floating around the Internet and other online services for years, including the request for cards for the sick boy in England (he's long since recovered and grown up), the cookie or cake recipe that cost \$250 (it's a myth), and the Good Times or Penpal Greetings virus, which will infect your computer when you read an e-mail message (it does not exist). *See also* Good Times virus.

URC *n.* *See* Uniform Resource Citation.

URI *n.* *See* Uniform Resource Identifier.

URL *n.* Acronym for **Uniform Resource Locator**. An address for a resource on the Internet. URLs are used by Web browsers to locate Internet resources. A URL specifies the protocol to be used in accessing the resource (such as http: for a World Wide Web page or ftp: for an FTP site), the name of the server on which the resource resides (such as //www.whitehouse.gov), and, optionally, the path to a resource (such as an HTML document or a file on that server). *See also* FTP¹ (definition 1), HTML, HTTP, path (definition 1), server (definition 2), virtual path (definition 1), Web browser.

URN *n.* *See* Uniform Resource Name.