
Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms

Tenth Edition

Douglas A. Downing, Ph.D.
School of Business and Economics
Seattle Pacific University

Michael A. Covington, Ph.D.
Artificial Intelligence Center
The University of Georgia

Melody Mauldin Covington
Covington Innovations
Athens, Georgia

Catherine Anne Covington
Covington Innovations
Athens, Georgia

With the assistance of
Sharon Covington



DICTIONARY OF COMPUTER AND INTERNET TERMS

© Copyright 2009, 2006, 2003, 2000, 1998, 1996, 1995, 1992, 1989, and 1986 by Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner.

All inquiries should be addressed to:

Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

250 Wireless Boulevard

Hauppauge, NY 11788

www.barronseduc.com

ISBN-13: 978-978-0-764-18175-7 ISBN-10: 978-0-764-18175-7

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 2008044365

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Downing, Douglas.

Dictionary of computer and Internet terms / Douglas A. Downing, Michael A. Covington, Melody Mauldin Covington.—10th ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 978-978-0-764-18175-7

1. Computers—Dictionaries. 2. Internet—Dictionaries. I. Covington, Michael A., 1957- II. Covington, Melody Mauldin. III. Title.

QA76.15.D667 2009

004.03—dc22 2008044365

PRINTED IN CHINA

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

downstream (describing data transmission) in a direction from the server to the client, or from the main computer to the peripheral. *Compare* DOWNLOAD. *Contrast* UPSTREAM.

downward compatibility the ability to work with older equipment and/or software than that for which a computer program or accessory was designed. *Contrast* UPWARD COMPATIBILITY.

dpi (dots per inch) the number of pixels or printer dots per linear inch. The first generation of laser printers could print with a resolution of 300 dots per inch. 600- and 1200-dpi laser printers are now available. See RESOLUTION for further details.

draft quality a printout in low resolution, unsuitable for CAMERA-READY COPY, but adequate for proofing the copy and checking the placement and alignment of graphics.

drag to move an object by using a mouse. To do this, move the mouse pointer to the object, and then hold down a mouse button (usually the leftmost button if there is more than one), and move the mouse. The selected object will move with the mouse pointer, as if the pointer were *dragging* the object. When you are finished, drop the object by releasing the button.



FIGURE 85. Drag

drag and drop

1. the ability to move text or graphics by dragging it to a new location with the mouse.
2. a method of opening an application program. Simply pick up a file icon

server a computer that provides services to another computer (called the *client*). On multitasking machines, a process that provides services to another process is sometimes called a server. For specific examples, see FILE SERVER; WEB SERVER; X SERVER.

server-side application a computer program that runs on a network server rather than on the client PC. For instance, Java servlets are server-side applications; when you view a web page that contains a servlet, the computation is done on the server rather than on your PC. *Contrast* CLIENT-SIDE APPLICATION.

service in Windows, a program that runs continuously, unseen by the user, such as a Web or FTP server, or a program with a more mundane function such as updating the system clock; the equivalent of a UNIX DAEMON.

service bureau a business that provides services to computer users, such as high-quality color printing, disk format conversions, or the like.

service pack a set of updates to a software package, delivered together or even delivered with the original software.

Usage note: The phrase *Windows XP Service Pack 2* can mean either “Service Pack 2 for Windows XP” or “Windows XP with Service Pack 2 included.”

service provider a company that provides computer or networking services to customers. *See also* ACCESS PROVIDER; INTERNET.

servlet a Java program that runs on a web server. By contrast, an applet is a Java program running on a web browser client.

session

1. a period of time during which a person is using a particular computer service, such as a connection to the Internet.
2. an occasion upon which data is written to a recordable CD-ROM. Multisession CDs have had data written to them more than once.

set

1. the input of a flip-flop that places it into state 1, as opposed to the *reset* input. *See* FLIP-FLOP.
2. the command in Windows and UNIX, that stores information in the

upstream (describing data transmission) in a direction from the client to the server, or from the peripheral to the main computer. *Compare* UPLOAD. *Contrast* DOWNSTREAM.

upward compatibility the situation in which a computer program or accessory works not only on the machine for which it was designed but also on newer models. For instance, programs written for the IBM PC in 1981 will still run (considerably faster) on present-day Pentium machines. Thus we say that the Pentium is upward compatible with the processor in the PC. *Contrast* DOWNWARD COMPATIBILITY.

urban legend a story that is told by highly educated people as if it were true, but cannot be confirmed. Typically, it happened to a “friend of a friend” (i.e., a person who is almost, but not quite, identifiable), and it involves some improbable but highly amusing misadventure. The term was coined by Jan Harold Brunvand, who has written several books on the subject. The Internet is one of many means by which urban legends circulate. *See also* HOAX.

URL (Uniform Resource Locator, Universal Resource Locator) a way of specifying the location of publicly available information on the Internet, in the form

protocol://machine:port number/filename

Often the port number and/or the filename is unnecessary. For example,

`http://csam.uga.edu:80`

means connect to port 80 of csam.uga.edu using Hypertext Transfer Protocol, and <ftp://ai.uga.edu/pub/natural.language/Contents> means to download a particular file from ai.uga.edu by File Transfer Protocol. A user name and password can be included thus:

`ftp://username:password@www.somewhere.com/directoryname/filename`

This is a handy way to access your web site on its server from your browser. *See also* FTP.