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COMPUTER & INTERNET DICTIONARY

THIRD EDITION

- Over 3,000 Computer Terms Clearly Explained
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Random House Webster's Computer & Internet Dictionary, Third Edition

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Margolis, Philip E.

Random House Webster's computer & internet dictionary / Philip E. Margolis. -- 3rd ed.
p. cm.
Rev. ed. of: Random House personal computer dictionary. 2nd ed. c1996.
Includes biographical references and index.
ISBN 0-375-70351-9
1. Microcomputers--Dictionaries. 2. Computers--Dictionaries.
I. Margolis, Philip E. Random House personal computer dictionary.
II. Title.
QA76.15.M37 1998
004.16'03--dc21 98-45280
CIP

www.randomwords.com

Typeset and printed in the United States of America.

1999 Third Random House Edition

0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
January 2000

ISBN: 0-375-70351-9

New York Toronto London Sydney Auckland

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serif A small decorative line added as embellishment to the basic form of a character. Typefaces are often described as being *serif* or *sans serif* (without serifs). The most common serif typeface is Times Roman. A common sans serif typeface is Helvetica.

⇒ See also FONT; SANS SERIF; TYPEFACE.

server A computer or device on a network that manages network resources. For example, a *file server* is a computer and storage device dedicated to storing files. Any user on the network can store files on the server. A *print server* is a computer that manages one or more printers, and a *network server* is a computer that manages network traffic. A database *server* is a computer system that processes database queries.

Servers are often dedicated, meaning that they perform no other tasks besides their server tasks. On multiprocessing operating systems, however, a single computer can execute several programs at once. A *server* in this case could refer to the program that is managing resources rather than the entire computer.

⇒ See also CLIENT; CLIENT/SERVER ARCHITECTURE; DEC; LOAD BALANCING; LOCAL-AREA NETWORK; NETWORK; PROXY SERVER; SERVER MIRRORING; SERVER-SIDE; SGI; SUN MICROSYSTEMS; VIRTUAL SERVER.

server mirroring Utilizing a backup server that duplicates all the processes and transactions of the primary server. If, for any reason, the primary server fails, the backup server can immediately take its place without any down-time.

Server mirroring is an expensive but effective strategy for achieving fault tolerance. It's expensive because each server must be mirrored by an identical server whose only purpose is to be there in the event of a failure. A less expensive technique that is becoming more and more popular is clustering.

⇒ See also DISK MIRRORING; FAULT TOLERANCE; SERVER.

server-side Occurring on the server side of a client/server system. For example, on the World Wide Web, CGI scripts are server-side applications because they run on the Web server. In contrast, JavaScript scripts are client-side because they are executed by your browser (the client). Java applets can be either server-side or client-side depending on which computer (the server or the client) executes them.

⇒ See also CLIENT-SIDE; CLIENT/SERVER ARCHITECTURE; SERVER; SSI.

Server-Side Include See SSI.

service **1.** See CUSTOMER SUPPORT. **2.** See ONLINE SERVICE.

Service Advertising Protocol See SAP.

service bureau Short for *prepress service bureau*, a company that provides

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