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programming, to keep the implementation details of a class a separate file whose contents do not need to be known by a programmer using that class. *See also* object-oriented programming, TCP/IP.

Encapsulated PostScript *n. See* EPS.

encapsulated type *n. See* abstract data type.

encapsulation *n.* **1.** In object-oriented programming, the packaging of attributes (properties) and functionality (methods or behaviors) to create an object that is essentially a "black box"—one whose internal structure remains private and whose services can be accessed by other objects only through messages passed via a clearly defined interface (the programming equivalent of a mailbox or telephone line). Encapsulation ensures that the object providing service can prevent other objects from manipulating its data or procedures directly, and it enables the object requesting service to ignore the details of how that service is provided. *See also* information hiding. **2.** In terms of the Year 2000 problem, a method of dealing with dates that entails shifting either program logic (data encapsulation) or input (program encapsulation) backward into the past, to a parallel year that allows the system to avoid Year 2000 complications. Encapsulation thus allows processing to take place in a "time warp" created by shifting to an earlier time before processing and—for accuracy—shifting output forward by the same number of years to reflect the actual date. *See* data encapsulation, program encapsulation.

encipher *vb. See* encrypt.

encode *vb.* **1.** *See* encrypt. **2.** In programming, to put something into code, which frequently involves changing the form—for example, changing a decimal number to binary-coded form. *See also* binary-coded decimal, EBCDIC.

encoder *n.* **1.** In general, any hardware or software that encodes information—that is, converts the information to a particular form or format. For example, the Windows Media Encoder converts audio and video to a form that can be streamed to clients over a network. **2.** In reference to MP3 digital audio in particular, technology that converts a WAV audio file into an MP3 file. An MP3 encoder compresses a sound file to a much smaller size, about one-twelfth as large as the original, without a perceptible drop in quality. *Also called:* MP3 encoder. *See also* MP3, WAV. *Compare* rip, ripper.

encoding *n.* **1.** *See* Huffman coding. **2.** A method of dealing with computers with Year 2000 problems that entails storing a four-digit year in date fields designed to hold only two digits in a program or system. This can be accomplished by using the bits associated with the date field more efficiently—for example, by converting the date field from ASCII to binary or from decimal to hexadecimal, both of which allow storage of larger values.

encrypt *vb.* To encode (scramble) information in such a way that it is unreadable to all but those individuals possessing the key to the code. Encrypted information is known as cipher text. Also called: encipher, encode.

encryption *n.* The process of encoding data to prevent unauthorized access, especially during transmission. Encryption is usually based on one or more keys, or codes, that are essential for decoding, or returning the data to readable form. The U.S. National Bureau of Standards created a complex encryption standard, Data Encryption Standard (DES), which is based on a 56-bit variable that provides for more than 70 quadrillion unique keys to encrypt documents. *See also* DES.

encryption key *n.* A sequence of data that is used to encrypt other data and that, consequently, must be used for the data's decryption. *See also* decryption, encryption.

end-around carry *n.* A special type of end-around shift operation on a binary value that treats the carry bit as an extra bit; that is, the carry bit is moved from one end of the value to the other. *See also* carry, end-around shift, shift.

end-around shift *n.* An operation performed on a binary value in which a bit is shifted out of one end and into the other end. For example, a right-end shift on the value 00101001 yields 10010100. *See also* shift.

en dash *n.* A punctuation mark (–) used to show ranges of dates and numbers, as in 1990–92, and in compound adjectives where one part is hyphenated or consists of two words, as in pre–Civil War. The en dash is named after a typographical unit of measure, the en space, which is half the width of an em space. *See also* em space. *Compare* em dash, hyphen.

End key *n.* A cursor-control key that moves the cursor to a certain position, usually to the end of a line, the end of a screen, or the end of a file, depending on the program. See the illustration.

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