Microsoft Press

Computer Dictionary

Third Edition

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direct cable connection \dər-ekt` kā´bl kə-nek`shən\ *n.* A link between the I/O ports of two computers that uses a single cable rather than a modem or other active interface device. In most cases, a direct cable connection requires a null modem cable.

direct-connect modem \dər-ekt`kə-nekt mō´dəm\ *n.* A modem that uses standard telephone wire and connectors and plugs directly into a telephone jack, eliminating the need for an intermediary telephone. *Compare* acoustic coupler.

direct-coupled transistor logic \dər-ekt`kə-pld tranz-i´stər loj`ik\ *n.* A circuit design that uses transistors and resistors only, with the transistors directly connected to each other. This design was used in the earliest commercial integrated circuits. The switching speed and power consumption of such circuits are about average. *Acronym:* DCTL (D`C-T-L´).

direct current \dər-ekt` kur´ənt\ *n.* Electrical current whose direction of flow does not reverse. The current may stop or change amplitude, but it always flows in the same direction. *Acronym:* DC (D-C´). *Compare* alternating current.

direct digital color proof \dər-ekt` dij`i-təl kə`lər prōōf´\ *n.* A test sheet produced by a lower-cost output device, such as a color laser printer, to serve as an approximation of what the final image will look like when produced on professional-quality printing equipment. A direct digital color proof does not involve color separation, as in traditional proofs. Instead, a direct digital color proof is printed in all colors at one time on a single page, resulting in somewhat lower quality compared with traditional separation methods but having the advantages of increased speed and reduced cost. *Acronym:* DDCP (D`D-C-P´). *Also called* digital proof. *See also* color separation (definition 1).

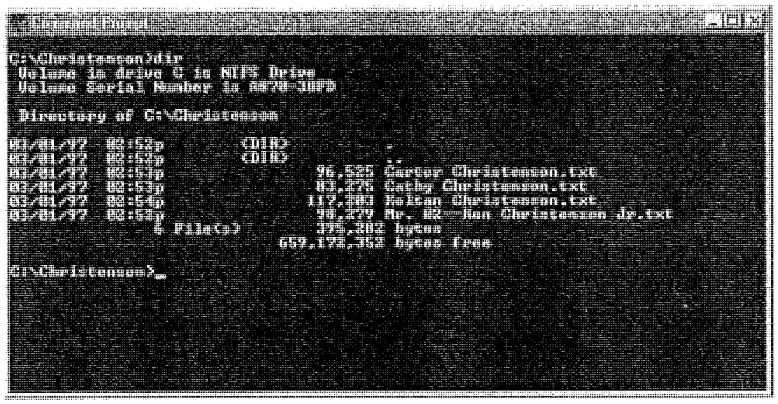
Direct Graphics Interface Specification \dər-ekt` graf`iks in´tər-fās spes-ə-fə-kā`shən\ *n. See* DGIS.

DirectInput \dər-ekt` in´put\ *n.* An application programming interface for joysticks and similar pointing devices in Windows 95.

direction key \dər-ek´shən kē`\ *n. See* arrow key.

direct memory access \dər-ekt´ mem-ər-ē ak`ses\ *n.* Memory access that does not involve the microprocessor and is frequently used for data transfer directly between memory and an "intelligent" peripheral device, such as a disk drive. *Acronym:* DMA (D`M-A´).

directory \dər-ek´tər`ē\ *n.* A catalog for filenames and other directories stored on a disk. A directory is a way of organizing and grouping the files so that the user is not overwhelmed by a long list of them. The topmost directory is called the *root directory;* the directories within a directory are called *subdirectories.* Depending on how an operating system supports directories, filenames in a directory can be viewed and ordered in various ways—for example, alphabetically, by date, by size, or as icons in a graphical user interface.



Dir. *An example of a directory list.*

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