

The Dictionary of Computing & Digital Media

*Terms &
Acronyms*

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CIP

digitize

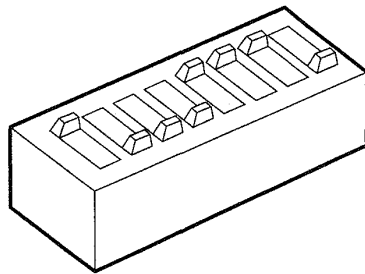
pable of 100:1 compression ratios, the proprietary hardware decoder board is not in widespread use and is not expected to be a platform of future development.

digitize (v.) 1. To encode images or sound in a format that may be processed by a computer. 2. To convert analog information, such as an audio signal, into digital data.

DIMM See *dual in-line memory module*.

DIN See *Deutsche Industrie Norm*.

DIP switch (n.) Dual in-line package switch; a miniature two-position switch mounted on a circuit board to set parameters or control functions. Pronounced "DIP." See figure.



DIP switch

Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) (n.) 1. System of transmitting digital video directly to the home via a 200-watt, high-powered satellite for reception by a small, relatively inexpensive antenna. The programming is transmitted or broadcast by satellite directly to the subscribers' premises. Ground distribution or reception equipment is only used in the uplink process to the satellite or at the subscribers' premises. Also called *Direct Satellite Service (DSS)* or *Direct-to-Home Satellite Service*. Hughes Electronics DirecTV is a well-known DBS service provider. 2. A receiver, repeater, or regen-

erator for microwave signals in geosynchronous orbit typically 22 300 miles above the surface of Earth. The footprint at this distance is approximately one-third of the globe.

Direct Client-to-Client (DCC) (n.) A feature of Internet Relay Chat (IRC) client software that allows users to bypass the server, sending and receiving messages and files directly. This protocol protects users from being monitored by an IRC server operator. DCC commands include DCC CHAT, DCC SEND, and DCC GET.

direct current (DC) (n.) A flow of electrons that moves in one direction at a relatively constant rate through a wire or a circuit. Batteries deliver DC voltage. See also *alternating current*.

direct draw (n.) A graphics feature of Windows 95 that permits rapid calls to the display, rather than routing the calls through the graphical device interface.

direct memory access (DMA) (n.) In computing, the process of moving data to and from memory without routing it through the central processing unit (CPU).

directory (n.) A listing of information about data files and their locations on a storage medium. In the logical format of a hard disk, a floppy disk, or a CD-ROM, this "branch" of the information tree contains other directories (subdirectories) and files.

Directory Access Protocol (DAP) (n.) Based on the X.500 standard, a protocol used for communication between a Directory User Agent (DUA) and a Directory System Agent (DSA).

Directory Enabled Network (DEN) (n.) A framework for storing information about rout-