Microsoft Press

Computer Dictionary

Third Edition

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variables are declared at the beginning of sections of code. *See also* variable.

decoder \dē`kō´dər, də-kō´dər\ *n.* **1.** A device or program routine that converts coded data back to its original form. This can mean changing unreadable or encrypted codes into readable text or changing one code to another, although the latter type of decoding is usually referred to as conversion. *Compare* conversion. **2.** In electronics and hardware, a type of circuit that produces one or more selected output signals based on the combination of input signals it receives.

decollate \dē`kō´lāt\ *vb.* To separate copies in a multipart continuous paper form.

decompiler \dē`-kəm-pī´lər\ *n.* A program that attempts to generate high-level source code from assembly language code or machine code. This can be a difficult task, as some assembly language code has no corresponding high-level source code. *See also* disassembler. *Compare* compiler (definition 2).

decompress \dē`kəm-pres´\ *vb. See* uncompress.

.de.co.us \dot-D-E`dot-C-O-dot-U-S´\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Denver, Colorado, United States.

decrement[1] \de´krə-mənt\ *n.* The amount by which a number is decreased. *Compare* increment[1].

decrement[2] \de´krə-mənt\ *vb.* To decrease a number by a given amount. *Compare* increment[2].

decryption \dē-krip´shən\ *n.* The process of restoring encrypted data to its original form. *Compare* encryption.

DECstation \dek´stā`shən, D-E-C´\ *n.* **1.** A small computer system used primarily for word processing, introduced by Digital Equipment Corporation in 1978. **2.** One of a series of personal computers introduced by Digital Equipment Corporation in 1989. **3.** One of a series of single-user UNIX workstations introduced by Digital Equipment Corporation in 1989 and based on RISC processors. *See also* RISC.

dedicated \ded´ə-kā`təd\ *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or being a device, program, or procedure devoted to a single task or function.

dedicated channel \ded`ə-kā-təd chan`əl\ *n.* A communications link reserved for a particular use or a particular user.

dedicated line \ded`ə-kā-təd līn´\ *n.* **1.** A communications channel that permanently connects two or more locations. Dedicated lines are private or leased lines, rather than public ones. T1 lines, which are used by many organizations for Internet connectivity, are examples of dedicated lines. *Also called* leased line, private line. *Compare* switched line. **2.** A telephone line that is used for one purpose only, such as to receive or send faxes or to serve as a modem line.

deep copy \dēp´ kop`ē\ *n.* A copy of the contents of a data structure, including all its substructures.

deep hack \dēp hak´\ *n.* A state of total concentration on and preoccupation with a programming effort. *Also called* deep hack mode.

de facto standard \dē fak`tō stan´dərd\ *n.* A design, program, or language that has become so widely used and imitated that it has little competition, but whose status has not been officially recognized as standard by an organization such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). *See also* standard. *Compare* de jure standard.

default[1] \də-fält´, də-fôlt´, dē´fält, dē´fôlt\ *n.* A choice made by a program when the user does not specify an alternative. Defaults are built into a program when a value or option must be assumed for the program to function.

default[2] \də-fält´, də-fôlt´, dē´fält, dē´fôlt\ *vb.* In reference to programs, to make a choice when the user does not specify an alternative.

default button \də-fält´ but`ən, də-fôlt´, dē´fält, dē´fôlt\ *n.* The control that is automatically selected when a window is introduced by an application or operating system, typically activated by pressing the Enter key.

default drive \də-fält´ drīv`, də-fôlt´, dē´fält, dē´fôlt\ *n.* The disk drive that an operating system reads to and writes from when no alternative is specified.

default home page \də-fält` hōm´ pāj, də-fôlt`, dē´fält, dē´fôlt\ *n.* On a Web server, the file that is returned when a directory is referenced without a specific filename. This is specified by the Web server software and is typically the file called index.html or index.htm.

default printer \dəfält´ prin`tər, də-fôlt´, dē´fält, dē´fôlt\ *n.* The printer to which a computer sends