



Microsoft Press

Computer Dictionary

Third Edition

Microsoft Press

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which have speeds of 500 kilobits per second (Kbps), can generally transmit data faster than current conventional modems. *See also* coaxial cable, modem.

cabling diagram \kāˈbə-lēng dī-ə-gram\ *n.* A plan that shows the path of cables that attach computer system components or peripherals. Cabling diagrams are particularly important for explaining the connection of disk drives to a disk controller.

cache \kash\ *n.* A special memory subsystem in which frequently used data values are duplicated for quick access. A memory cache stores the contents of frequently accessed RAM locations and the addresses where these data items are stored. When the processor references an address in memory, the cache checks to see whether it holds that address. If it does hold the address, the data is returned to the processor; if it does not, a regular memory access occurs. A cache is useful when RAM accesses are slow compared with the microprocessor speed, because cache memory is always faster than main RAM memory. *See also* disk cache, wait state.

cache card \kashˈkärd\ *n.* An expansion card that increases a system's cache memory. *See also* cache, expansion board.

cache memory \kashˈmem-ər-ē\ *n.* *See* cache.

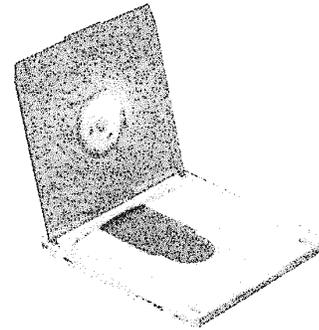
CAD \kad, CˈA-Dˈ\ *n.* Acronym for **computer-aided design**. A system of programs and workstations used in designing engineering, architectural, and scientific models ranging from simple tools to buildings, aircraft, integrated circuits, and molecules. Various CAD applications create objects in two or three dimensions, presenting the results as wire-frame "skeletons," as more substantial models with shaded surfaces, or as solid objects. Some programs can also rotate or resize models, show interior views, generate lists of materials required for construction, and perform other allied functions. CAD programs rely on mathematics, often requiring the computing power of a high-performance workstation. *See also* CAD/CAM, I-CASE.

CAD/CAM \kadˈkam, C-A-DˈC-A-Mˈ\ *n.* Acronym for **computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing**. The use of computers in both the design and manufacture of a product. With CAD/CAM, a product, such as a machine part, is designed with a CAD program and the finished design is translated into a set of instructions that

can be transmitted to and used by the machines dedicated to fabrication, assembly, and process control. *See also* CAD, I-CASE.

CADD \CˈA-D-Dˈ, kad-Dˈ\ *n.* *See* computer-aided design and drafting.

caddy \kadˈē\ *n.* A plastic carrier that holds a CD-ROM and is inserted into a CD-ROM drive. Some personal computers, especially older models, have CD-ROM drives that require the use of a caddy. Most current CD-ROM drives do not require a caddy. *See* the illustration.



Caddy.

CAE \CˈA-Eˈ\ *n.* Acronym for **computer-aided engineering**. An application that enables the user to perform engineering tests and analyses on designs created with a computer. In some instances, capabilities such as logic testing that are generally attributed to CAE applications are also part of CAD programs, so the distinction between CAD and CAE is not a hard-and-fast one. *See also* CAD, I-CASE.

CAI \CˈA-Iˈ\ *n.* Acronym for **computer-aided (or computer-assisted) instruction**. An educational program designed to serve as a teaching tool. CAI programs typically use tutorials, drills, and question-and-answer sessions to present a topic and to test the student's comprehension. CAI programs are excellent aids for presenting factual material and for allowing students to pace their learning speed. Subjects and complexity range from beginning arithmetic to advanced mathematics, science, history, computer studies, and specialized topics. *See also* I-CASE. *Compare* CBT, CMI.

CAL \CˈA-Lˈ\ *n.* Acronym for **computer-assisted (or computer-augmented) learning**. *See* CAI.

application-centric \a`plə-kā`shən-sen`trik\ *adj.*

Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of an operating system in which a user invokes an application to open or create documents (such as word processing files or spreadsheets). Command-line interfaces and some graphical user interfaces such as the Windows 3.x Program Manager are application-centric. *Compare* document-centric.

application developer \a-plə-kā`shən də-vel`ə-pər\ *n.* An individual who designs and analyzes the appearance and operation of an application program.

application development environment \a-plə-kā`shən də-vel`əp-mənt en-vī`rən-mənt, en-vī`ərən-mənt\ *n.* An integrated suite of programs for use by software developers. Typical components of application development environments include a compiler, file browsing system, debugger, and text editor for use in creating programs.

application development language \a-plə-kā`shən də-vel`əp-mənt lang`wəj\ *n.* A computer language designed for creating applications. The term is usually restricted to refer to languages with specific high-level constructs geared toward record design, form layout, database retrieval and update, and similar tasks. *See also* application, application generator, 4GL.

application development system \a-plə-kā`shən də-vel`əp-mənt sis`təm\ *n.* A programming environment designed for the development of an application, typically including a text editor, compiler, and linker, and often including a library of common software routines for use in the developed program.

application file \a`plə-kā`shən fīl\ *n.* *See* program file.

application gateway \a-plə-kā`shən gāt`wā\ *n.* Software running on a machine that is intended to maintain security on a secluded network yet allow certain traffic to go between the private network and the outside world. *See also* firewall.

application generator \a-plə-kā`shən jen`ər-ā-tər\ *n.* Software for generating source or machine code for running an application based on a description of the desired functionality. Limited in scope, application generators are included with some database programs and use built-in instruc-

tion sets to generate program code. *See also* application.

application heap \a`plə-kā`shən hēp\ *n.* A block of RAM used by an application to store its code, resources, records, document data, and other information. *See also* heap (definition 1), RAM.

application layer \a`plə-kā`shən lār`, la`yər\ *n.* The highest layer of standards in the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model. The application layer contains signals that perform useful work for the user, such as file transfer or remote access to a computer, as opposed to lower levels, which control the exchange of data between transmitter and receiver. *See also* ISO/OSI model.

application processor \a`plə-kā`shən pros`e-sər\ *n.* A processor dedicated to a single application.

application program \a`plə-kā`shən prō`gram\ *n.* *See* application.

application programming interface \a-plə-kā`shən prō`gra-mēng in`tər-fās\ or **application program interface** \a-plə-kā`shən prō`gram in`tər-fās\ *n.* A set of routines used by an application program to direct the performance of procedures by the computer's operating system. *Acronym:* API (A`P-I`).

application shortcut key \a-plə-kā`shən shōrt`kut kē\ *n.* A key or combination of keys that when pressed will quickly perform an action within an application that would normally require several user actions, such as menu selections. *Also called* keyboard shortcut.

application software \a-plə-kā`shən soft`wār\ *n.* *See* application.

application-specific integrated circuit \a-plə-kā`shən-spə-sif`ik in`tə-grā-təd sər`kət\ *n.* *See* gate array.

application suite \a-plə-kā`shən swēt\ *n.* *See* suite (definition 1).

.aq \dot`A-Q`\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Antarctica.

.ar \dot`A-R`\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Argentina.

arbitration \är`bə-trā`shən\ *n.* A set of rules for resolving competing demands for a machine resource by multiple users or processes. *See also* contention.

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