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Third Edition

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profile \prō´fīl\ *vb.* To analyze a program to determine how much time is spent in different parts of the program during execution.

Profiles for Open Systems Internetworking Technology \prō`fīlz fər ō`pən si`stəmz in`tər-net´wər-kēng tek-nol`ə-jē\ *n. See* POSIT.

program \prō´gram\ *n.* A sequence of instructions that can be executed by a computer. The term can refer to the original source code or to the executable (machine language) version. *Also called* software. *See also* program creation, routine, statement.

program card \prō´gram kärd`\ *n. See* PC Card, ROM card.

program cartridge \prō´gram kär`trij\ *n. See* ROM cartridge.

program counter \prō´gram koun`tər\ *n.* A register (small, high-speed memory circuit within a microprocessor) that contains the address (location) of the instruction to be executed next in the program sequence.

program creation \prō´gram krē-ā`shən\ *n.* The process of producing an executable file. Traditionally, program creation comprises three steps: (1) compiling the high-level source code into assembly language source code; (2) assembling the assembly language source code into machine-code object files; and (3) linking the machine-code object files with various data files, run-time files, and library files into an executable file. Some compilers go directly from high-level source to machine-code object, and some integrated development environments compress all three steps into a single command. *See also* assembler, compiler (definition 2), linker, program.

program file \prō´gram fīl`\ *n.* A disk file that contains the executable portion(s) of a computer program. Depending on its size and complexity, an application or other program, such as an operating system, can be stored in several different files, each containing the instructions necessary for some part of the program's overall functioning. *Compare* document file.

program generator \prō´gram jen`ər-ā-tər\ *n.* A program that creates other programs (usually in source code) based on a set of specifications and relationships given by the user. Program generators are often used to simplify the task of creating an application. *See also* 4GL, application generator.

program listing \prō´gram li`stēng\ *n.* A copy, usually on paper, of the source code of a program. Some compilers can generate program listings with line numbers, cross-references, and so on.

program logic \prō´gram loj`ik\ *n.* The logic behind the design and construction of a program—that is, the reasons it works the way it does. *See also* logic error.

programmable \prō-gram´ə-bl`\ *adj.* Capable of accepting instructions for performing a task or an operation. Being programmable is a characteristic of computers.

programmable function key \prō-gram`ə-bl funk´-shən kē`\ *n.* Any of several, sometimes unlabeled, keys on some third-party keyboards that allow the user to "play back" previously stored key combinations or sequences of keystrokes called *macros.* The same effect can be achieved with a standard keyboard and a keyboard enhancer, the latter of which intercepts the keyboard codes and substitutes modified values; but programmable function keys accomplish this without requiring RAM-resident software. *Compare* keyboard enhancer.

programmable interrupt controller \prō-gram`ə-bl in´tər-upt kən-trō`lər\ *n.* An Intel chip that handles interrupt requests (IRQs). IBM AT machines use two programmable interrupt controllers to accommodate a maximum of 15 IRQs. The programmable interrupt controller has been replaced by the advanced programmable interrupt controller (APIC), which supports multiprocessing. *Acronym:* PIC (P`I-C´). *See also* IBM AT, IRQ.

programmable logic array \prō-gram`ə-bl loj´ik ər-ā`\ *n. See* field-programmable logic array.

programmable logic device \prō-gram`ə-bl loj´-ik də-vīs`\ *n.* A logic chip that is programmed by the customer rather than by the manufacturer. Like a gate array, a programmable logic device consists of a collection of logic gates; unlike a gate array, a programmable logic device need not have its programming completed as part of the manufacturing process. *Acronym:* PLD (P`L-D´). *See also* logic chip. *Compare* gate array.

programmable read-only memory \prō-gram`-ə-bl rēd`ōn`lē mem´ər-ē\ *n. See* PROM.