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ISBN 1-57231-446-X

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PUBLISHED BY
Microsoft Press
A Division of Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, Washington 98052-6399

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary. -- 3rd ed.
p. cm.
ISBN 1-57231-446-X
1. Computers--Dictionaries. 2. Microcomputers--Dictionaries.
I. Microsoft Press.
QA76.15.M54 1997
004'.03--dc21 97-15489
CIP

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 QMQM 2 1 0 9 8 7

Distributed to the book trade in Canada by Macmillan of Canada, a division of Canada Publishing Corporation.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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Acquisitions Editor: Kim Fryer
Project Editor: Maureen Williams Zimmerman, Anne Taussig
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and higher microprocessors to control access to privileged functions, to change data segments, or to switch tasks.

gate array \gāt´ ər-ā`\ *n.* A special type of chip that starts out as a nonspecific collection of logic gates. Late in the manufacturing process, a layer is added to connect the gates for a specific function. By changing the pattern of connections, the manufacturer can make the chip suitable for many needs. This process is very popular because it saves both design and manufacturing time. The drawback is that much of the chip goes unused. *Also called* application-specific integrated circuit, logic array.

gated \gā´təd\ *adj.* **1.** Transmitted through a gate to a subsequent electronic logic element. **2.** Transmitted through a gateway to a subsequent network or service. For example, a mailing list on BITNET may be gated to a newsgroup on the Internet.

gate electrode \gāt´ ə-lek`trōd\ *n. See* gate (definition 2).

gateway \gāt´wā\ *n.* A device that connects networks using different communications protocols so that information can be passed from one to the other. A gateway both transfers information and converts it to a form compatible with the protocols used by the receiving network. *Compare* bridge.

gating circuit \gā´tēng sər`kət\ *n.* An electronic switch whose output is either on or off, depending on the state of two or more inputs. For example, a gating circuit may be used to pass or not pass an input signal, depending on the states of one or more control signals. A gating circuit can be constructed from one or more logic gates. *See also* gate (definition 1).

.ga.us \dot-G-A`dot-U-S´\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Georgia, United States.

.gb \dot`G-B´\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Great Britain.

GB \gig´ə-bīt`, jig´ə-bīt`, G-B´\ *n. See* gigabyte.

Gbps \G`B-P-S´\ *n. See* gigabits per second.

.gd \dot`G-D´\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Grenada.

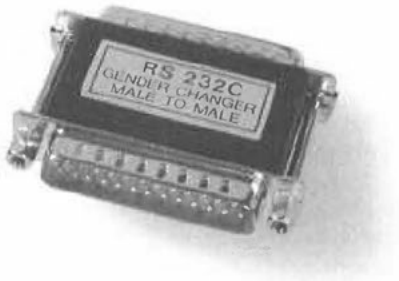
GDI \G`D-I´\ *n.* Acronym for **G**raphical **D**evice **I**nterface. In Microsoft Windows, a graphics display system used by applications to display or print bitmapped text (TrueType fonts), images, and other graphical elements. The GDI is responsible for drawing dialog boxes, buttons, and other elements in a consistent style on screen by calling the appropriate screen drivers and passing them the information on the item to be drawn. The GDI also works with GDI printers, which have limited ability to prepare a page for printing. Instead, the GDI handles that task by calling the appropriate printer drivers and moving the image or document directly to the printer, rather than reformatting the image or document in PostScript or another printer language. *See also* bitmapped font, dialog box, driver, PostScript.

.ge \dot`G-E´\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in the republic of Georgia.

geek \gēk\ *n.* **1.** Generally, a person who enjoys cerebral activities (such as wordplay, computer programming, and use of the Internet) more than the mainstream population does. Geeks in this sense increasingly claim the word with pride, but it may give offense when used by others, suggesting inadequacy in normal social relationships. **2.** A computer expert or specialist. For issues of etiquette, see definition 1. *Compare* guru, techie.

gender bender \jen´dər ben`dər\ *n. See* gender changer.

gender changer \jen´dər chān`jər\ *n.* A device for joining two connectors that are either both male (having pins) or both female (having sockets). See the illustration. *Also called* gender bender.



Gender changer.

undo \un-dōō´\ *vb.* To reverse the last action—for example, to undo a deletion, thus restoring deleted text to a document. Many application programs enable the user both to undo and to redo an action. *See also* undelete[2].

undock \un-dok´\ *vb.* **1.** To detach a laptop or other portable computer from a docking station. *See also* docking station, laptop. **2.** To move a toolbar from the edge of a window so that the toolbar becomes its own free-floating window. *See also* toolbar.

unerase \un-ē-rās´\ *n. See* undelete[2].

unfold \un-fōld´\ *adj. See* inline (definition 1).

unhandled exception \un-han`dld eks-ep´shən\ *n.* An error condition that an application does not internally resolve. When an unhandled exception occurs, the operating system terminates the application that caused the error.

Unibus \yōō´ni-bus`\ *n.* A bus architecture introduced by Digital Equipment Corporation in 1970.

Unicode \yōō´ni-kōd`\ *n.* A 16-bit character encoding standard developed by the Unicode Consortium between 1988 and 1991. By using two bytes to represent each character, Unicode enables almost all of the written languages of the world to be represented using a single character set. (By contrast, 8-bit ASCII is not capable of representing all of the combinations of letters and diacritical marks that are used just with the Roman alphabet.) Approximately 39,000 of the 65,536 possible Unicode character codes have been assigned to date, 21,000 of them being used for Chinese ideographs. The remaining combinations are open for expansion. *Compare* ASCII.

Uniform Data Transfer \yōō`nə-fōrm dā´tə trans-fər, dat´ə\ *n. See* UDT.

Uniform Naming Convention \yōō`nə-fōrm nā´mēng kən-ven`shən\ *n.* The system of naming files among computers on a network so that a file on a given computer will have the same pathname when accessed from any of the other computers on the network. For example, if the directory *c:\path1\path2\...pathn* on computer *servern* is shared under the name *pathdirs,* a user on another computer would open *\\servern\pathdirs\filename.ext* to access the file *c:\path1\path2\...pathn\filename.ext* on *servern. See also* URL, virtual path.

Uniform Resource Citation \yōō`nə-fōrm rē´sōrs sī-tā`shən\ *n.* A description of an object on the World Wide Web, consisting of pairs of attributes and their values, such as the Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs) of associated resources, author names, publisher names, dates, and prices. *Acronym:* URC (U`R-C´).

Uniform Resource Identifier \yōō`nə-fōrm rē´sōrs ī-den`tə-fī`ər\ *n.* A character string used to identify a resource (such as a file) from anywhere on the Internet by type and location. The set of Uniform Resource Identifiers includes Uniform Resource Names (URNs) and Uniform Resource Locators (URLs). *Acronym:* URI (U`R-I´). *See also* relative URL, Uniform Resource Name, URL.

Uniform Resource Locator \yōō`nə-fōrm rē´sōrs lō`kā-tər\ *n. See* URL.

Uniform Resource Name \yōō`nə-fōrm rē´sōrs nām`\ *n.* A scheme for uniquely identifying resources that may be available on the Internet by name, without regard to where they are located. The specifications for the format of Uniform Resource Names are still under development by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). They include all Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs) having the schemes urn:, fpi:, and path:; that is, those that are not Uniform Resource Locators (URLs). *Acronym:* URN (U`R-N´). *See also* IETF, Uniform Resource Identifier, URL.

UniForum \yōō´ni-fōr`um\ *n.* **1.** The International Association of Open System Professionals, an organization of UNIX users and administrators. **2.** A series of UNIX trade shows sponsored by UniForum and managed by Softbank COMDEX, Inc. *See also* COMDEX.

uninstall \un`in-stäl´\ *vb.* To remove software completely from a system, including the elimination of files and components residing in system locations such as the Registry in Windows 95 or Windows NT. Some applications have built-in uninstall utilities, and in other cases a separate uninstall program can be used. *Also called* deinstall.

uninterruptible power supply \un`in-tər-up`tə-bl pou´ər su-plī´\ *n. See* UPS.

union \yōōn´yən\ *n.* **1.** In set theory, the smallest combination of two sets that contains all elements of both sets. **2.** In logic, an inclusive OR operation.