

# WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™

## DICTIONARY of COMPUTER TERMS

SIXTH EDITION

*The Best Computer Dictionary in Print*

Clear, complete, up-to-date

Extensive Internet coverage

More than 4,000 terms and acronyms

Bryan Pfaffenberger

**que**®

# WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™

---

## DICTIONARY — of — COMPUTER TERMS

---

SIXTH EDITION

---

*By Bryan Pfaffenberger, Ph.D.*

**que**

Webster's New World™

Dictionary of Computer Terms, 6th Edition

Copyright © 1997 by  
Simon & Schuster, Inc.

All rights reserved  
including the right of reproduction  
in whole or in part in any form

Macmillan General Reference  
A Simon & Schuster Macmillan Company  
1633 Broadway  
New York, NY 10019-6785

Macmillan Publishing books may be purchased for business or  
sales promotional use. For information please write: Special  
Markets Department, Macmillan Publishing USA,  
1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019.

A Webster's New World™ Book

MACMILLAN is a registered trademark of Macmillan, Inc.

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY is a registered trade-  
mark of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 97-80220

ISBN: 0-02-861890-4

Manufactured in the United States of America

2 3 4 5 6 7    97 8 99 00 1 02

268 **interpolated resolution**

the same *optical resolution*, it can cost effectively improve scan quality.

**interpreted** Executed line-by-line from *source code* rather than from *object code* created by a *compiler*. See *interpreted code*, *interpreter*.

**interpreted code** Program code that requires an *interpreter* to execute, in contrast to *compiled* programs, which are *executable*.

**interpreter** A *translator* for a *high-level programming language* that translates and runs the program at the same time. Interpreters are excellent for learning how to program because, if an error occurs, the interpreter shows you the likely place (and sometimes even the cause) of the error. You can correct the problem immediately and execute the program again, learning interactively how to create a successful program. However, interpreted programs run much more slowly than compiled programs. See *compiler*.

**interprocess communication (IPC)** In a *multitasking* computing environment, such as *Microsoft Windows* running in the *386 Enhanced mode*, the communication of data or commands from one program to another while both are running, made possible by *dynamic data exchange (DDE)* specifications. In *Microsoft Excel*, for example, you can write a DDE command that accesses changing data, such as stock prices, that's being received online in a communications program.

**interrupt** A signal to the *microprocessor* indicating that an event has occurred that requires its attention. Processing is halted momentarily so that input/output or other operations can take place. When the operation is finished, processing resumes.

**interrupt controller** Part of the *motherboard's chip set* that distributes hardware *interrupt request (IRQ) lines*. The interrupt controller prevents more than one *peripheral* device from communicating with the *microprocessor* at one time.

**interrupt handler** A program that executes when an *interrupt* occurs. Such programs deal with events that are far below the threshold of user perception; for example, they deal with matters