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fan-in \fan´in\ *n.* The maximum number of signals that can be fed to a given electronic device, such as a logic gate, at one time without risking signal corruption. The fan-in rating of a device depends on its type and method of construction. *Compare* fan-out.

fan-out \fan´out\ *n.* The maximum number of electronic devices that can be fed by a given electronic device, such as a logic gate, at one time without the signal becoming too weak. The fan-out rating of a device depends on its type and method of construction. *Compare* fan-in.

fanzine \fan´zēn\ *n.* A magazine, distributed online or by mail, that is produced by and devoted to fans of a particular group, person, or activity. *See also* ezine.

FAQ \fak, F`A-Q´\ *n.* Acronym for **f**requently **a**sked **q**uestions. A document listing common questions and answers on a particular subject. FAQs are often posted on Internet newsgroups where new participants ask the same questions that regular readers have answered many times.

farad \fâr´ad\ *n.* Abbreviated F. The unit of capacitance (the ability to hold a charge). A 1-farad capacitor holds a charge of 1 coulomb with a potential difference of 1 volt between its plates. In practical use, a farad is an extremely large amount of capacitance; capacitance is usually expressed in terms of microfarads (10^{-6}) or picofarads (10^{-12}).

FARNET \fär´net, F-A-R´net`\ *See* Federation of American Research Networks.

Fast Ethernet \fast` ē´thər-net\ *n.* Ethernet capable of supporting 100 megabits per second. *See also* Ethernet (definition 1).

fast Fourier transform \fast fo͝or`ē-ā trans´fōrm\ *n.* A set of algorithms used to compute the discrete Fourier transform of a function, which in turn is used for solving series of equations, performing spectral analysis, and carrying out other signal-processing and signal generation tasks. *Acronym:* FFT (F`F-T´). *See also* Fourier transform.

fast infrared port \fast` in`frə-red pōrt´\ *n. See* FIR port.

fast packet \fast´ pak`et\ *n.* A standard for high-speed network technology that utilizes fast switching of fixed-length cells or packets for real-time transmission of data. *Also called* Asynchronous Transfer Mode, ATM. *See also* packet (definition 2), packet switching.

Fast SCSI \fast´ skuz`ē, S`C-S-I´\ *n.* A form of the SCSI-2 interface that can transfer data 8 bits at a time at up to 10 megabytes per second. The Fast SCSI connector has 50 pins. *Also called* Fast SCSI-2. *See also* SCSI, SCSI-2. *Compare* Fast/Wide SCSI, Wide SCSI.

Fast/Wide SCSI \fast`wīd skuz´ē, S`C-S-I´\ *n.* A form of the SCSI-2 interface that can transfer data 16 bits at a time at up to 20 megabytes per second. The Fast/Wide SCSI connector has 68 pins. *Also called* Fast/Wide SCSI-2. *See also* SCSI, SCSI-2. *Compare* Fast SCSI, Wide SCSI.

FAT \fat, F`A-T´\ *n. See* file allocation table.

fatal error \fā´təl âr`ər\ *n.* An error that causes the system or application program to crash—that is, to fail abruptly with no hope of recovery.

fat application \fat´ a-plə-kā`shən\ *n.* An application that can be used on both PowerPC processor–based Macintosh computers and 68K-based Macintosh computers.

fat binary \fat` bī´nər-ē\ *n.* An application format that supports both PowerPC processor–based Macintosh computers and 68K-based Macintosh computers.

fatbits \fat´bits\ *n.* **1.** Originally (as FatBits), a feature of the Apple MacPaint program in which a small portion of a drawing can be enlarged and modified one pixel (FatBit) at a time. **2.** A similar feature in any program that allows pixel-by-pixel modification through a zoom feature.

fat client \fat` clī´ənt\ *n.* In a client/server architecture, a client machine that performs most or all of the processing, with little or none performed by the server. The client handles presentation and functions, and the server manages data and access to it. *See also* client (definition 3), client/server architecture, server (definition 2), thin server. *Compare* fat server, thin client.

FAT file system \fat` fīl´ si-stəm, F`A-T´\ *n.* The system used by MS-DOS to organize and manage files. The FAT (file allocation table) is a data structure that MS-DOS creates on the disk when the disk is formatted. When MS-DOS stores a file on a formatted disk, the operating system places information about the stored file in the FAT so that MS-DOS can retrieve the file later when requested.

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The FAT is the only file system MS-DOS can use; OS/2, Windows NT, and Windows 95 operating systems can use the FAT file system in addition to their own file systems (HPFS, NTFS, and VFAT, respectively). *See also* file allocation table, HPFS, NTFS, OS/2, VFAT, Windows 95, Windows NT.

father \fä´dhər\ *n.* *See* generation (definition 1).

father file \fä´dhər fīl`\ *n.* A file that is the last previously valid set of a changing set of data. The father file is immediately preceded by a grandfather file and immediately succeeded by its son. The pairs *father* and *son*, *parent* and *child* (or *descendant*), and *independent* and *dependent* are synonymous. *See also* generation (definition 1).

fat server \fat` sər´vər\ *n.* In a client/server architecture, a server machine that performs most of the processing, with little or none performed by the client. Applications logic and data reside on the server, and presentation services are handled by the client. *See also* client (definition 3), client/server architecture, server (definition 2), thin client. *Compare* fat client, thin server.

fatware \fat´wâr\ *n.* Software that monopolizes hard disk space and power due to an overabundance of features or inefficient design. *Also called* bloatware.

fault \fält, fôlt\ *n.* A physical defect, such as a loose connection, that prevents a system or device from operating as it should.

fault tolerance \fält´ tol`ər-ens, fôlt´\ *n.* The ability of a computer or an operating system to respond to a catastrophic event or fault, such as a power outage or a hardware failure, in a way that ensures that no data is lost and any work in progress is not corrupted. This can be accomplished with a battery-backed power supply, backup hardware, provisions in the operating system, or any combination of these. In a fault-tolerant network, the system has the ability either to continue the system's operation without loss of data or to shut the system down and restart it, recovering all processing that was in progress when the fault occurred.

favorite \fā´vər-it`, fā´vrət\ *n.* In Microsoft Internet Explorer, a user-defined shortcut to a page on the World Wide Web, analogous to a bookmark in Netscape Navigator. *See also* Favorites folder, hotlist. *Compare* bookmark (definition 2).

Favorites folder \fā´vər-its fōl`dər, fā´vrəts\ *n.* In Microsoft Internet Explorer, a collection of shortcuts to Web sites that a user has selected for future reference. Other Web browsers refer to this collection by other names, such as bookmarks or hotlists. *See also* bookmark file (definition 1), Internet Explorer, URL. *Compare* bookmark (definition 2), hotlist.

fax \faks\ *n.* Short for facsimile. The transmission of text or graphics over telephone lines in digitized form. Conventional fax machines scan an original document, transmit an image of the document as a bit map, and reproduce the received image on a printer. Resolution and encoding are standardized in the CCITT Groups 1–4 recommendations. Fax images can also be sent and received by microcomputers equipped with fax hardware and software. *See also* CCITT Groups 1–4.

fax machine \faks´ mə-shēn`\ *n.* Short for facsimile machine. A device that scans pages, converts the images of those pages to a digital format consistent with the international facsimile standard, and transmits the image through a telephone line. A fax machine also receives such images and prints them on paper. See the illustration. *See also* scan (definition 2).

Fax machine.

fax modem \faks´ mō`dəm\ *n.* A modem that sends (and possibly receives) data encoded in a fax format (typically CCITT fax format), which a fax machine or another modem decodes and converts to an image. The image must already have been encoded on the host computer. Text

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