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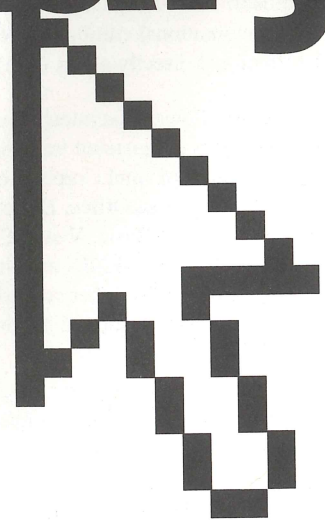


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Computer Dictionary

**Fourth
Edition**



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Common File Extensions

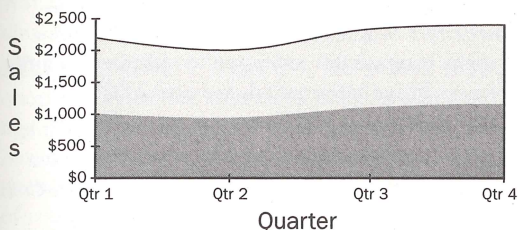
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Appendix H

Year 2000 Problem Reference

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Quarterly Sales Summary



Area chart.

arg *n.* See argument.

argument *n.* An independent variable, used with an operator or passed to a subprogram that uses the argument to carry out specific operations. *See also* algorithm, operator (definition 1), parameter, subprogram.

ARIN *n.* Acronym for American Registry for Internet Numbers. A nonprofit organization formed to register and administer Internet Protocol (IP) addresses in North and South America. The American Registry for Internet Numbers separates the allocation of IP addresses from the administration of top-level Internet domains, such as .com and .edu. Both of these tasks were previously managed by Network Solutions, Inc., as part of the InterNIC consortium. Its international counterparts are RIPE, in Europe, and APNIC, in Asia and the Pacific Rim. *See also* APNIC, InterNIC, IP address, RIPE.

arithmetic¹ *adj.* Pertaining to the mathematical operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

arithmetic² *n.* The branch of mathematics dealing with the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of real numbers.

arithmetic expression *n.* A series of elements, including data labels and constants as well as numbers, that are joined by arithmetic operators, such as + and -, and can be calculated to produce a value.

arithmetic logic unit *n.* A component of a microprocessor chip used for arithmetic, comparative, and logical functions. *Acronym:* ALU. *See also* gate (definition 1).

arithmetic operation *n.* Any of the standard calculations performed in arithmetic—addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division. The term is also used in reference to negative numbers and absolute values.

arithmetic operator *n.* An operator that performs an arithmetic operation: +, -, *, or /. An arithmetic operator usually takes one or two arguments. *See also* argument, binary¹, logical operator, operator (definition 1), unary.

.arj *n.* The DOS file extension used with archive files created with the ARJ compression program.

ARP \ärp\ *n.* Acronym for Address Resolution Protocol. A TCP/IP protocol for determining the hardware address (or physical address) of a node on a local area network connected to the Internet, when only the IP address (or logical address) is known. An ARP request is sent to the network, and the node that has the IP address responds with its hardware address. Although ARP technically refers only to finding the hardware address, and RARP (for Reverse ARP) refers to the reverse procedure, ARP is commonly used for both senses. *See also* IP address, TCP/IP.

ARPANET \är'pä-net\ *n.* A large wide area network created in the 1960s by the U.S. Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA, renamed DARPA in the 1970s) for the free exchange of information between universities and research organizations, although the military also used this network for communications. In the 1980s MILNET, a separate network, was spun off from ARPANET for use by the military. ARPANET was the network from which the Internet evolved. *See also* Internet, MILNET.

ARP request \ärp' rə-kwest\ *n.* Short for Address Resolution Protocol request. An ARP packet containing the Internet address of a host computer. The receiving computer responds with or passes along the corresponding Ethernet address. *See also* ARP, Ethernet, IP address, packet.

array *n.* In programming, a list of data values, all of the same type, any element of which can be referenced by an expression consisting of the array name followed by an indexing expression. Arrays are part of the fundamentals of data structures, which, in turn, are a major fundamental of computer programming. *See also* array element, index¹, record¹, vector.

array element *n.* A data value in an array.

array processor *n.* A group of interconnected, identical processors operating synchronously, often under the control of a central processor.

supported by a database management system (DBMS). Thus, one speaks of a relational DBMS, a network DBMS, and so on, depending on the type of data model a DBMS supports. In general, a DBMS supports only one data model as a practical rather than a theoretical restriction.

data network *n.* A network designed for transferring data encoded as digital signals, as opposed to a voice network, which transmits analog signals.

Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification *n.*
See DOCSIS.

data packet *n.* *See* packet.

data path *n.* The route that a signal follows as it travels through a computer network.

data point *n.* Any pair of numeric values plotted on a chart.

data processing *n.* **1.** The general work performed by computers. **2.** More specifically, the manipulation of data to transform it into some desired result. *Acronym:* DP. *Also called* ADP, automatic data processing, EDP, electronic data processing. *See also* centralized processing, decentralized processing, distributed processing.

Data Processing Management Association *n.* *See* DPMA.

data projector *n.* A device, similar to a slide projector, that projects the video monitor output of a computer onto a screen.

data protection *n.* The process of ensuring the preservation, integrity, and reliability of data. *See also* data integrity.

data rate *n.* The speed at which a circuit or communications line can transfer information, usually measured in bits per second (bps).

data record *n.* *See* record¹.

data reduction *n.* The process of converting raw data to a more useful form by scaling, smoothing, ordering, or other editing procedures.

data segment *n.* The portion of memory or auxiliary storage that contains the data used by a program.

Data Service Unit *n.* *See* DDS.

data set *n.* **1.** A collection of related information made up of separate elements that can be treated as a unit in data handling. **2.** In communications, a modem. *See also* modem.

Data Set Ready *n.* *See* DSR.

data sharing *n.* The use of a single file by more than one person or computer. Data sharing can be done by physically transferring a file from one computer to another, or, more commonly, by networking and computer-to-computer communications.

data signal *n.* The information transmitted over a line or circuit. It consists of binary digits and can include actual information or messages and other elements such as control characters or error-checking codes.

data sink *n.* **1.** Any recording medium where data can be stored until needed. **2.** In communications, the portion of a Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) device that receives transmitted data.

data source *n.* **1.** The originator of computer data, frequently an analog or digital data collection device. **2.** In communications, the portion of a Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) device that sends data.

data stream *n.* An undifferentiated, byte-by-byte flow of data.

data structure *n.* An organizational scheme, such as a record or array, that can be applied to data to facilitate interpreting the data or performing operations on it.

data switch *n.* A device in a computer system that routes incoming data to various locations.

Data Terminal Equipment *n.* *See* DTE.

Data Terminal Ready *n.* *See* DTR.

data traffic *n.* The exchange of electronic messages—control and data—across a network. Traffic capacity is measured in bandwidth; traffic speed is measured in bits per unit of time.

data transfer *n.* The movement of information from one location to another, either within a computer (as from a disk drive to memory), between a computer and an external device (as between a file server and a computer on a network), or between separate computers.

data transfer rate *n.* *See* data rate.

data transmission *n.* The electronic transfer of information from a sending device to a receiving device.

data type *n.* In programming, a definition of a set of data that specifies the possible range of values of the set, the operations that can be performed on the values, and the way in which the values are stored in memory. Defining the data type allows a computer to

Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

Fourth Edition



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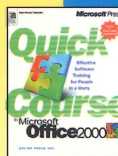


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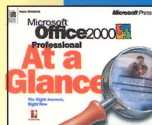
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