

Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

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Active Desktop, Active Directory, ActiveMovie, ActiveStore, ActiveSync, ActiveX, Authenticode, BackOffice, BizTalk, ClearType, Direct3D, DirectAnimation, DirectDraw, DirectInput, DirectMusic, DirectPlay, DirectShow, DirectSound, DirectX, Entourage, FoxPro, FrontPage, Hotmail, IntelliEye, IntelliMouse, IntelliSense, ISerial, MenPoint, Microsoft, Microsoft Press, Mobile Explorer, MS, DOS

ital audio compression algorithm that stores a sample as the difference between a linear combination of previous samples and the actual sample, rather than the measurement itself. The linear combination formula is modified every few samples to minimize the dynamic range of the output signal, resulting in efficient storage. *See also* pulse code modulation. *Compare* adaptive delta pulse code modulation.

adaptive load balancing *n.* *See* load balancing.

adaptive routing *n.* *See* dynamic routing.

adaptive system *n.* An artificial intelligence system that is capable of altering its behavior based on certain features of its experience or environment. *See also* expert system.

ADB *n.* *See* Apple Desktop Bus.

ADC *n.* *See* analog-to-digital converter.

A-D converter *n.* *See* analog-to-digital converter.

adder *n.* **1.** A component of the CPU (central processing unit) that adds two numbers sent to it by processing instructions. *See also* central processing unit. **2.** A circuit that sums the amplitudes, or strength, of two input signals. *See also* full adder, half adder.

add-in *n.* *See* add-on.

addition record *n.* **1.** A file that describes new record entries (such as a new customer, employee, or product) in a database so that they can later be scrutinized and posted. **2.** A record in a change file specifying a new entry. *See also* change file.

add-on *n.* **1.** A hardware device, such as an expansion board or chip, that can be added to a computer to expand its capabilities. *Also called:* add-in. *See also* open archi-

the keyboard or a mouse.

address book *n.* **1.** In an e-mail program, a reference section listing e-mail addresses and individuals' names. **2.** As a Web page, an informal e-mail or URL phone book.

address bus *n.* A bus consisting of 20 to 64 separate hardware lines that is used to carry the signals specifying memory locations for data. *See also* bus.

address classes *n.* Predefined groupings of Internet addresses with each class defining networks of a certain size. The range of numbers that can be assigned for the first octet in the IP address is based on the address class. Class A networks (values 1 to 126) are the largest, with more than 16 million hosts per network. Class B networks (128 to 191) have up to 65,534 hosts per network, and Class C networks (192 to 223) can have up to 254 hosts per network.

address decoder *n.* An electronic device that converts a numeric address to the electrical signals needed to select a specific memory location on one or more RAM.

addressing *n.* The process of assigning or referring to an address. In programming, the address is typically used to specify a memory location. *See also* address.

address mapping table *n.* A table used by routers and DNS (Domain Name System) servers to obtain the corresponding IP (Internet Protocol) address of a text-based computer resource, such as the name of a host on the Internet. *Acronym:* AMT. *See also* DNS server, address, router.

address mark *n.* *See* index mark.

address mask *n.* A number that, when compared to a computer with a network address number, will block

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before random access memory (RAM) was available or affordable. Some people still use the term to refer to the main memory of any computer system, as in the phrase *core dump*—a listing of the raw contents of main memory at the moment of a system crash. *Compare* RAM.

core class *n.* In the Java programming language, a public class or interface that is a standard member of the language. Core classes, at minimum, are available on all operating systems where the Java platform runs. A program written entirely in the Java programming language relies only on core classes. *See also* class (definition 1), object, object-oriented programming.

core program *n.* A program or program segment that is resident in random access memory (RAM).

coresident *adj.* Of or pertaining to a condition in which two or more programs are loaded in memory at the same time.

corona wire *n.* In laser printers, a wire through which high voltage is passed to ionize the air and transfer a uniform electrostatic charge to the photosensitive medium in preparation for the laser.

coroutine *n.* A routine that is in memory at the same time as, and frequently executed concurrently with, another.

corrective maintenance *n.* The process of diagnosing and correcting computer problems after they occur. *Compare* preventive maintenance.

correspondence quality *n.* *See* print quality.

corruption *n.* A process wherein data in memory or on disk is unintentionally changed, with its meaning thereby altered or obliterated.

3. A device that keeps track of the number of visitors to a World Wide Web site.

counting loop *n.* In a program, a group of statements that are repeated, thereby incrementing a variable used as a counter (for example, a program might repeat a counting loop that adds 1 to its counter until the counter equals 10). *See also* loop¹ (definition 1).

country code *n.* *See* major geographic domain.

country-specific *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of hardware or software that uses characters or conventions unique to a particular country or group of countries. *Country-specific* does not necessarily refer to spoken languages, although it does allow for special characters (such as accent marks) that are language-specific. Generally, the features considered country-specific include keyboard layout (including special-character keys), time and date conventions, financial and monetary symbols, decimal notation (decimal point or comma), and alphabetic sorting order. Such features are handled either by a computer's operating system (for example, by the Keyboard and Country commands in MS-DOS) or by application programs that offer options for tailoring documents to a particular set of national or international conventions.

courseware *n.* Software dedicated to education or training.

courtesy copy *n.* *See* cc.

CPA *n.* *See* Computer Press Association.

CPCP *n.* *See* HTCPCP.

cpi *n.* *See* characters per inch.

CP/M *n.* Acronym for **C**ontrol **P**rogram/**M**onitor. A line of operating systems from Digital Research, Inc. (DRI),