



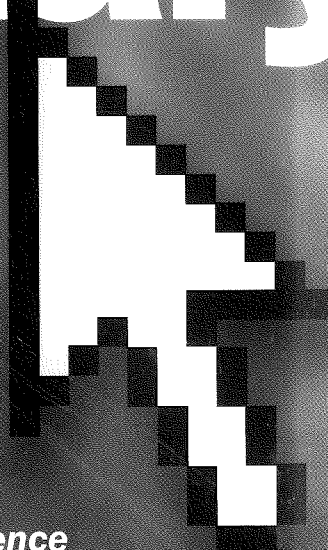
THE ULTIMATE COMPUTER REFERENCE

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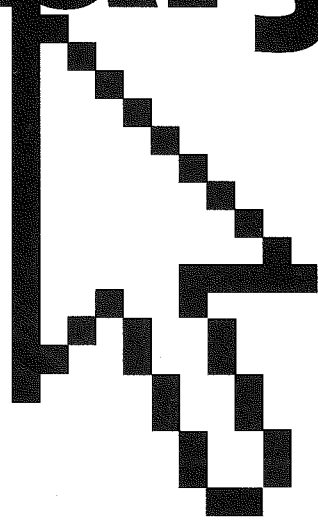


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# Computer Dictionary

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**liveness** *n.* A slang term for people, to distinguish them from hardware, software, and firmware. *Also called* wetware.

**LLC** *n.* Acronym for Logical Link Control. In the IEEE 802.x specifications, the higher of two sublayers that make up the ISO/OSI data-link layer. The LLC is responsible for managing communications links and handling frame traffic. *See also* IEEE 802.x, MAC.

**load**<sup>1</sup> *n.* **1.** The total computing burden a system carries at one time. **2.** In electronics, the amount of current drawn by a device. **3.** In communications, the amount of traffic on a line.

**load**<sup>2</sup> *vb.* To place information from storage into memory for processing, if it is data, or for execution, if it is program code.

**load-and-go** *adj.* In reference to a routine, able to begin execution immediately, once loaded. The term is commonly used in reference to compilers and the machine code they generate.

**load balancing** *n.* **1.** In distributed processing, the distribution of activity across two or more servers in order to avoid overloading any one with too many requests from users. Load balancing can be either static or dynamic. In the former, the load is balanced ahead of time by assigning different groups of users to different servers. In the latter, software refers incoming requests at runtime to whichever server is most capable of handling them. **2.** In client/server network administration, the process of reducing heavy traffic flows either by dividing a busy network segment into multiple smaller segments or by using software to distribute traffic among multiple network interface cards working simultaneously to transfer information to a server. **3.** In communications, the process of routing traffic over two or more routes rather than one. Such load balancing results in faster, more reliable transmissions.

**loaded line** *n.* A transmission cable fitted with loading coils, usually spaced about a mile apart, that reduce amplitude distortion in a signal by adding inductance (resistance to changes in current flow) to the line. Loaded lines minimize distortion within the range of frequencies affected by the loading coils, but the coils also reduce the bandwidth available for transmission.

**loader** *n.* A utility that loads the executable code of a program into memory for execution. On most microcomputers, the loader is an invisible part of the oper-

ating system and is automatically invoked when a program is run. *See also* loader routine, load module.

**loader routine** *n.* A routine that loads executable code into memory and executes it. A loader routine can be part of an operating system or it can be part of the program itself. *See also* loader, overlay<sup>1</sup> (definition 1).

**load module** *n.* An executable unit of code loaded into memory by the loader. A program consists of one or more load modules, each of which can be loaded and executed independently. *See also* loader.

**load point** *n.* The beginning of the valid data area on a magnetic tape.

**load sharing** *n.* A method of managing one or more tasks, jobs, or processes by scheduling and simultaneously executing portions of them on two or more microprocessors.

**load shedding** *n.* In electrical systems, the process of turning off power to some electronic equipment in order to maintain the integrity of the power supply to other connected devices. *See also* UPS.

**local** *adj.* **1.** In general, close at hand or restricted to a particular area. **2.** In communications, a device that can be accessed directly rather than by means of a communications line. **3.** In information processing, an operation performed by the computer at hand rather than by a remote computer. **4.** In programming, a variable that is restricted in scope, that is, used in only one part (subprogram, procedure, or function) of a program. *Compare* remote.

**local area network** *n.* *See* LAN.

**local bus** *n.* A PC architecture designed to speed up system performance by allowing some expansion boards to communicate directly with the microprocessor, bypassing the normal system bus entirely. *See also* PCI local bus, VL bus.

**local bypass** *n.* A telephone connection used by some businesses that links separate buildings but bypasses the telephone company.

**localhost** *n.* The name that is used to represent the same computer on which a TCP/IP message originates. An IP packet sent to localhost has the IP address 127.0.0.1 and does not actually go out to the Internet. *See also* IP address, packet (definition 1), TCP/IP.

**localization** *n.* The process of altering a program so that it is appropriate for the area in which it is used. For example, the developers of a word processing program must localize the sorting tables in the pro-