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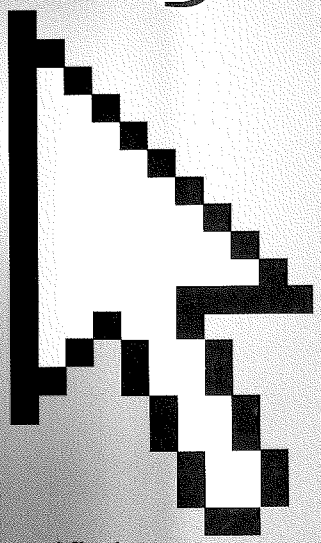

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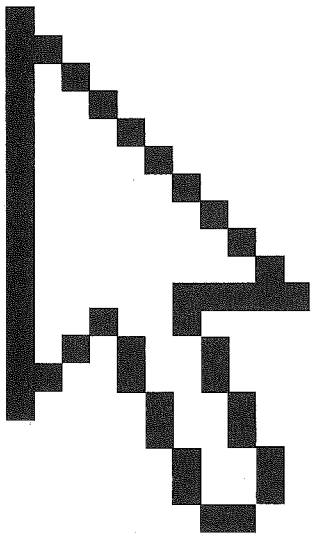

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see and access all shared files of other Gnutella users. Unlike Napster, Gnutella does not require a central server, and any file type can be exchanged. Gnutella was originally developed by researchers at America Online's Nullsoft group but the original implementation of the protocol was never publicly released. An open-source Gnutella preview appeared that resulted in a number of variations becoming available. *See also* Napster.

Godwin's Law *n.* As originally proposed by Internet activist Michael Godwin, the theory that as an online discussion grows longer, a comparison involving Nazis or Hitler will inevitably be made. When a participant in an online discussion resorts to invoking such a comparison, other participants might cite Godwin's Law to indicate both that the person has lost the argument and that the discussion has continued too long.

Good Times virus *n.* A purported e-mail virus alluded to in a warning that has been propagated widely across the Internet, as well as by fax and standard mail. The letter claims that reading an e-mail message with the subject "Good Times" will cause damage to the user's system. In fact, it is currently impossible to harm a system by reading an e-mail message, although it is possible to include a virus in a file that is attached to an e-mail message. Some consider the chain letter itself to be the "virus" that wastes Internet bandwidth and the reader's time. Information on such hoaxes and on real viruses can be obtained from CERT (http://www.cert.org/). *See also* urban legend, virus.

Gopher or **gopher** *n.* An Internet utility for finding textual information and presenting it to the user in the form of hierarchical menus, from which the user selects submenus or files that can be downloaded and displayed. One Gopher client may access all available Gopher servers, so the user accesses a common "Gopherspace." The name of the program is a three-way pun: it is designed to go for desired information; it tunnels through the Internet and digs the information up; and it was developed at the University of Minnesota, whose athletic teams are named the Golden Gophers. Gopher is being subsumed by the World Wide Web.

Gopher server *n.* The software that provides menus and files to a Gopher user. *See also* Gopher.

Gopher site *n.* A computer on the Internet on which a Gopher server runs. *See also* Gopher, Gopher server.

Gopherspace *n.* The total set of information on the Internet that is accessible as menus and documents through Gopher. *See also* Gopher.

GOSIP *n.* Acronym for **G**overnment **O**pen **S**ystems **I**nterconnection **P**rofile. A U.S. government requirement that all of its new network purchases comply with the ISO/OSI standards. GOSIP went into effect on August 15, 1990, but was never fully implemented and was replaced by POSIT.

GOTO statement *n.* A control statement used in programs to transfer execution to some other statement; the high-level equivalent of a branch or jump instruction. Use of GOTO statements is generally discouraged because they make it difficult not only for a programmer to trace the logic of a program but also for a compiler to generate optimized code. *See also* branch instruction, jump instruction, spaghetti code.

.gov *n.* In the Internet's Domain Name System, the top-level domain that identifies addresses operated by government agencies. The domain name .gov appears as a suffix at the end of the address. In the United States, only non-military federal government agencies may use the .gov domain. State governments in the United States use the top-level domain of .state.us, with .us preceded by the two-letter abbreviation for the state, or just .us; other regional governments in the United States are registered under the .us domain. *See also* DNS (definition 1), domain (definition 3), .state.us, .us. *Compare* .com, .edu, .mil, .net, .org.

Government Open Systems Interconnection Profile *n. See* GOSIP.

GPF *n. See* General Protection Fault.

GPIB *n. See* General-Purpose Interface Bus.

GPL *n. See* General Public License.

GPRS *n.* Acronym for **G**eneral **P**acket **R**adio **S**ervice. A third-generation enhancement to the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), which supports non-voice applications such as Web browsing and other servicing requiring transfer of data packets without limits in message size. Systems using the service can be immediately connected when needed and therefore seem to the users to be always on. *See also* GSM, TDMA.

GPS *n.* Acronym for **G**lobal **P**ositioning **S**ystem. A radio navigation system developed by the U.S. Department of

Defense that uses a constellation of 24 earth satellites, which are monitored by ground-based control stations, to provide precise, continuous worldwide positioning and timing information. GPS offers two services: a public Standard Positioning Service that provides positioning data accurate to within 100 meters horizontally and 156 meters vertically and time accurate to within 340 nanoseconds; and a Precise Positioning Service, principally for government and military use, with positioning data accurate to within 22 meters horizontally and 27.7 meters vertically and time accurate to within 100 nanoseconds. *See also* GPS receiver.

GPS receiver *n.* A device that includes an antenna, a radio receiver, and a processor for use with the worldwide GPS (Global Positioning System). A GPS receiver uses position and time information from four GPS satellites to calculate precise information about its current location, its speed of travel, and the current time. A portable GPS receiver may be a stand-alone device or a plug-in unit for use with a portable computer. GPS receivers are used for scientific work, such as surveying, mapping, and studies of volcanoes, as well as for land, sea, and air navigation. On the consumer front, they are used in outdoor activities such as hiking and sailing and in cars to provide location, destination, and traffic information. *See also* GPS.

grabber *n.* **1.** A device for capturing graphical image data from a video camera or another full-motion video source and putting it into memory. *Also called:* frame grabber, video digitizer. **2.** Any device for capturing data. **3.** Software that takes a snapshot of the currently displayed screen image by transferring a portion of video memory to a file on disk. **4.** In some graphics-based applications, a special type of mouse pointer.

graceful exit *n.* The methodical termination of a process, even under error conditions, that allows the operating system or parent process to regain normal control, leaving the system in a state of equilibrium. This is expected behavior. *See also* fail-soft system.

grade *n.* In communications, the range of frequencies available for transmission on a single channel. For example, voice-grade telephone frequencies range from about 300 hertz (Hz) through 3400 Hz.

grade of service *n.* The probability that a user of a shared communications network, such as a public telephone system, will receive an "all channels busy" signal. The grade of service is used as a measure of the traffic-handling ability of the network and is usually applied to a specific period, such as the peak traffic hour. A grade of service of 0.002, for example, assumes that a user has a 99.8 percent chance that a call made during the specified period will reach its intended destination.

gradient *n.* A smooth progression of colors and shades, usually from one color to another color, or from one shade to another shade of the same color.

Graffiti *n.* A software application developed by Palm to allow handwriting recognition on personal digital assistants (PDAs). Graffiti contains preprogrammed shapes for each letter, which users of the application must match as closely as possible when writing. Text is written directly onto the PDA's display screen using a stylus. The Graffiti application then passes the translated letter to the PDA's application.

grafPort *n.* A structure used on the Apple Macintosh to define a graphics environment with its own pen size, font, fill patterns, and so on. Each window has a grafPort, and grafPorts can be used to send graphics to off-screen windows or files.

graftal *n.* One of a family of geometric forms, similar to fractals but easier to compute. Graftals are often used in the special-effects industry to create synthetic images of structures such as trees and plants. *See also* fractal.

grammar checker *n.* A software accessory that checks text for errors in grammatical construction.

Grammar Specification Language *n. See* GSL.

grandfather *n. See* generation (definition 1).

grandfather/father/son *adj. See* generation (definition 1).

grandparent *n. See* generation (definition 2).

granularity *n.* A description, from "coarse" to "fine," of a computer activity or feature (such as screen resolution, searching and sorting, or time slice allocation) in terms of the size of the units it handles (pixels, sets of data, or time slices). The larger the pieces, the coarser the granularity.

graph *n.* **1.** In programming, a data structure consisting of zero or more nodes and zero or more edges, which connect pairs of nodes. If any two nodes in a graph can be connected by a path along edges, the graph is said to be connected. A subgraph is a subset of the nodes and edges within a graph. A graph is directed (a digraph) if each edge links two nodes together only in one direction. A