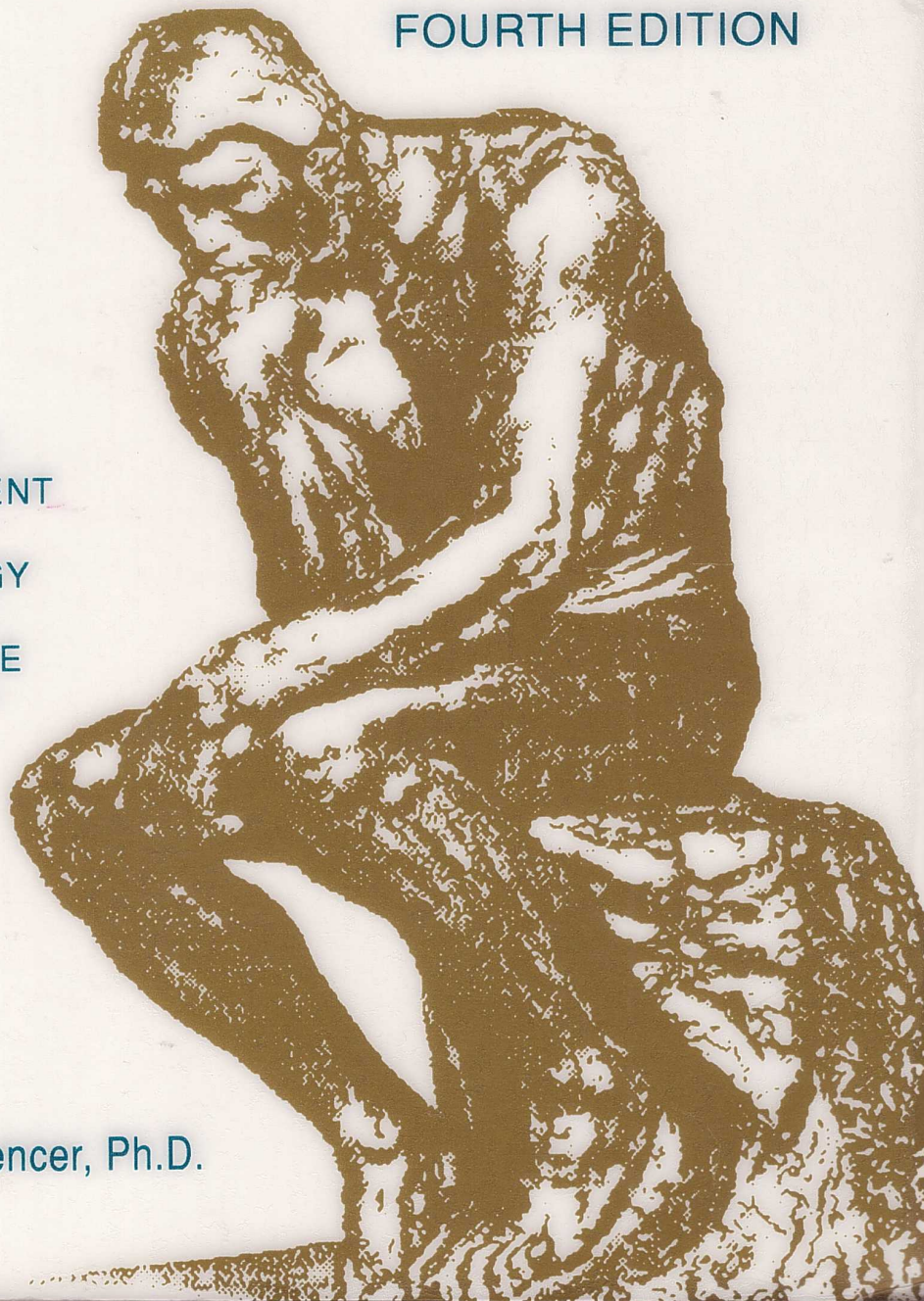


COMPUTER DICTIONARY

FOURTH EDITION

COVERS THE
MOST CURRENT
COMPUTER
TERMINOLOGY
WITH CLEAR
JARGON-FREE
DEFINITIONS

by
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hand-held scanner An optical scanner that is operated by manually running a scanning head over an image. Small rollers on the bottom of the scanning head serve to guide the hand movement.

handle (1) In computer graphics, a small square associated with a graphical object that can be used to move or reshape the image. (2) A number that can be used to uniquely identify an object. (3) In programming, a pointer to a pointer. In other words, a variable that contains the address of another variable, which in turn contains the address of yet another variable.

handler (1) Program with the sole function of controlling a particular input, output, or storage device, a file, or the interrupt facility. (2) In object oriented programming, the program instructions (called a script) embedded within an object. The instructions are designed to trap messages that begin within the object.

handshaking Procedures and standards (protocol) used by two computers or a computer and a peripheral device to establish communication.

hands-on Pertaining to the process of physically using a computer system.

handwriting recognition Scanning handwritten material with a computer-controlled visual scanning device to determine information content or to verify a signature.

hanging indent A paragraphing style with a full-measure first line and indented succeeding lines (called turnover lines).

hang-up Nonprogrammed stop in a routine. Usually an unforeseen or unwanted halt in a machine run caused by improper coding of a problem, by equipment malfunction, or by the attempted use of a nonexistent or illegal operation code.

hard clip area Limits beyond which lines cannot be drawn on a digital plotter.

hard contact printing Contact printing in which the mask is pressed against the substrate with appreciable force.

hard copy Printed copy of machine output in readable form, such as reports, listings, graphic images, documents, or summaries. Contrast with soft copy.

hard disk Fast auxiliary storage device either mounted in its own case or permanently mounted inside a computer. A single hard disk has storage capacity of several million characters or bytes of information. This storage media makes computers usable in the real world. Contrast with floppy disk.

hard error Error caused by a malfunction in the hardware.