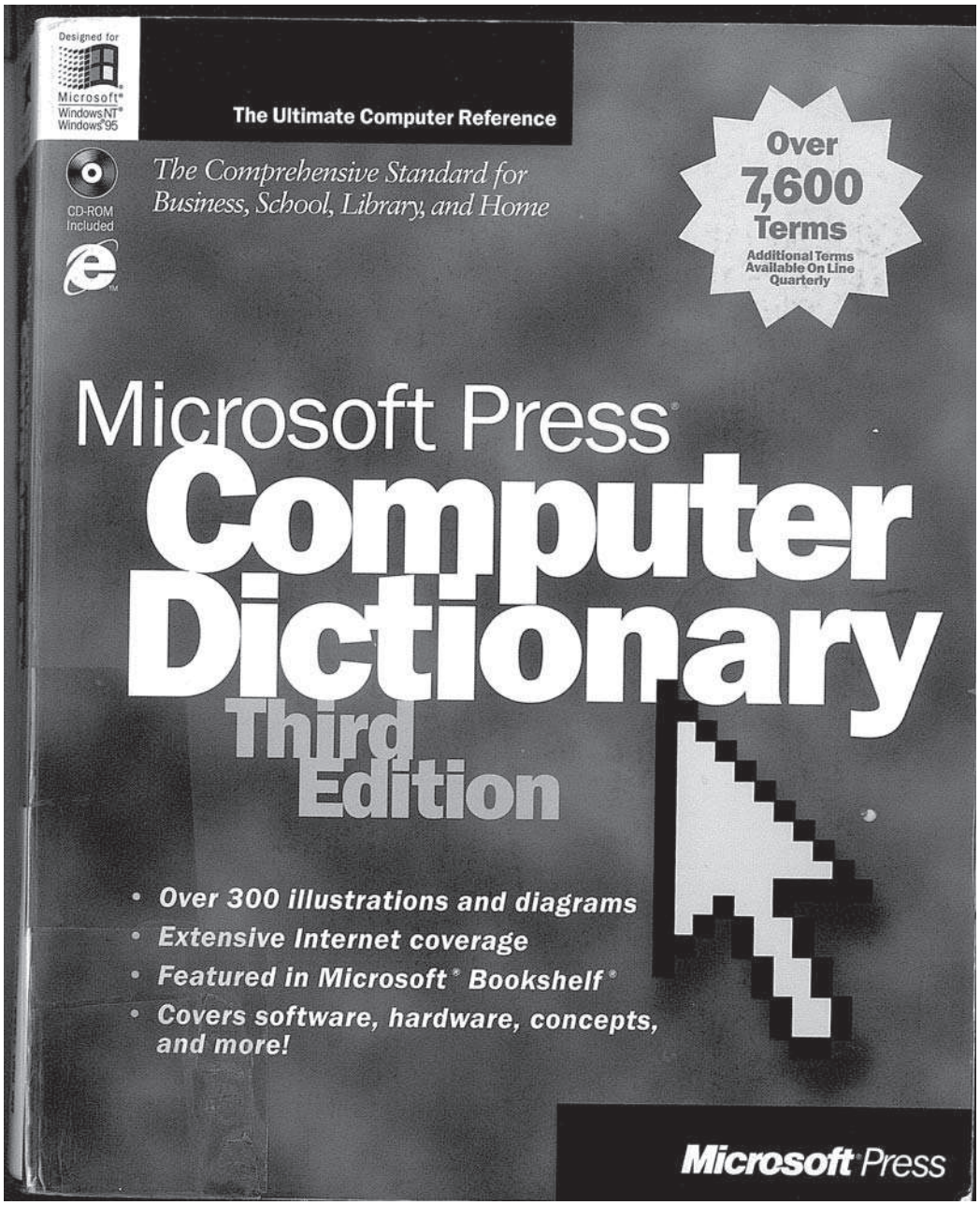


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Microsoft Press

# Computer Dictionary

Third Edition

Microsoft Press

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addressing data and managing the flow of transmissions. It is the lowest of the three layers (data-link, network, and transport) involved in actually moving data between devices. *See also* ISO/OSI model.

**data management** \dā´tə man`əj-mənt, dat´ə\ *n.* The control of data from acquisition and input through processing, output, and storage. In microcomputers, hardware manages data by gathering it, moving it, and following instructions to process it. The operating system manages the hardware and ensures that the parts of the system work in harmony so that data is stored safely and accurately. Application programs manage data by receiving and processing input according to the user's commands, and sending results to an output device or to disk storage. The user also is responsible for data management by acquiring data, labeling and organizing disks, backing up data, archiving files, and removing unneeded material from the hard disk.

**data manipulation** \dā`tə mə-ni`pyə-lā`shən, dat´ə\ *n.* The processing of data by means of programs that accept user commands, offer ways to handle data, and tell the hardware what to do with the data.

**data manipulation language** \dā`tə mə-ni`pyə-lā´shən lang`wəj, dat´ə\ *n.* In database management systems, a language that is used to insert data in, update, and query a database. Data manipulation languages are often capable of performing mathematical and statistical calculations that facilitate generating reports. *Acronym:* DML (D`M-L´). *See also* structured query language.

**data mart** \dā´tə märt`, dat´ə\ *n.* A scaled-down version of a data warehouse that is tailored to contain only information likely to be used by the target group. *See also* data warehouse.

**data medium** \dā´tə mē`dē-um, dat´ə\ *n.* The physical material on which computer data is stored.

**data migration** \dā´tə mī-grā`shən, dat´ə\ *n.* **1.** The process of moving data from one repository or source, such as a database, to another, usually via automated scripts or programs. Often data migration involves transferring data from one type of computer system to another. **2.** In supercomputing applications, the process of storing large amounts of data offline while making them appear to be online as disk-resident files.

**data mining** \dā´tə mī`nēng, dat´ə\ *n.* The process of identifying commercially useful patterns or relationships in databases or other computer repositories through the use of advanced statistical tools.

**data model** \dā´tə mod`əl, dat´ə\ *n.* A collection of related object types, operators, and integrity rules that form the abstract entity 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** \dā´tə net`wərk, dat´ə\ *n.* A network designed for transferring data encoded as digital signals, as opposed to a voice network, which transmits analog signals.

**data packet** \dā´tə pak`ət, dat´ə\ *n. See* packet.

**data point** \dā´tə point`, dat´ə\ *n.* Any pair of numeric values plotted on a chart.

**data processing** \dā`tə pros´es-ēng, dat`ə\ *n.* **1.** The general work performed by computers. **2.** More specifically, the manipulation of data to transform it into some desired result. *Acronym:* DP (D-P´). *Also called* ADP, automatic data processing, EDP, electronic data processing. *See also* centralized processing, decentralized processing, distributed processing.

**Data Processing Management Association** \dā`tə pros`es-ēng man´əj-mənt ə-sō-sē-ā`shən, dat`ə\ *n. See* DPMA.

**data protection** \dā`tə pro-tek´shən, dat`ə\ *n.* The process of ensuring the preservation, integrity, and reliability of data. *See also* data integrity.

**data rate** \dā´tə rāt`, dat´ə\ *n.* The speed at which a circuit or communications line can transfer information, usually measured in bits per second (bps).

**data record** \dā´tə rek`ərd, dat´ə\ *n. See* record[1].

**data reduction** \dā´tə rə-duk`shən, dat´ə\ *n.* The process of converting raw data to a more useful form by scaling, smoothing, ordering, or other editing procedures.

**data segment** \dā´tə seg`mənt, dat´ə\ *n.* The portion of memory or auxiliary storage that contains the data used by a program.



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