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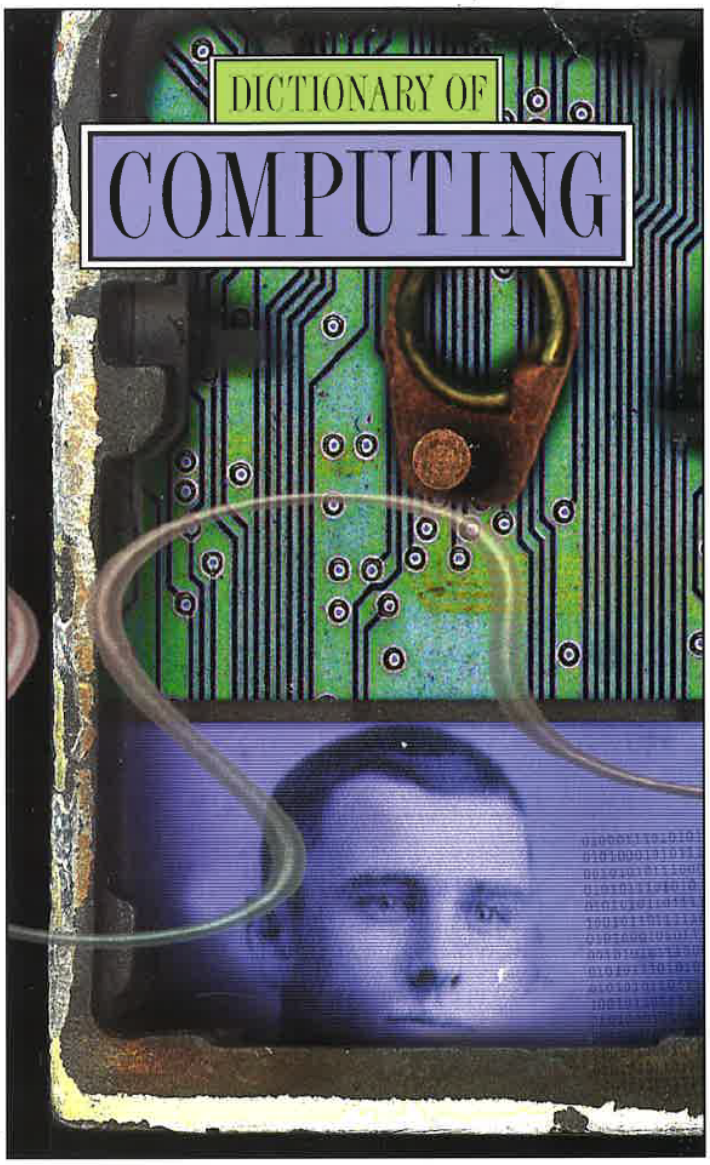

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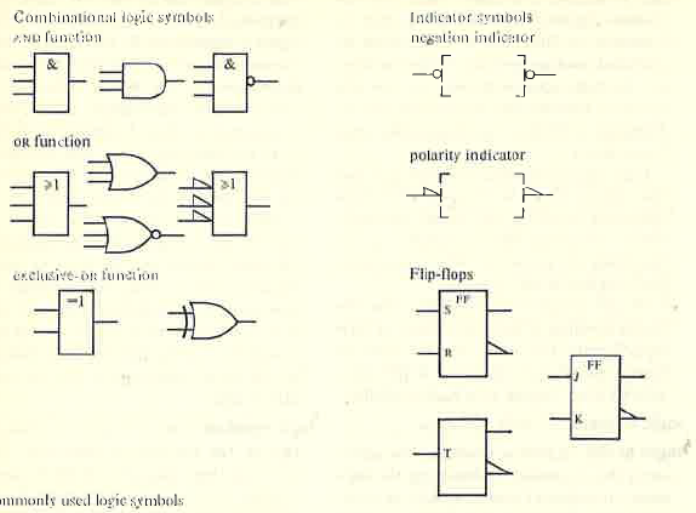

Commonly used logic symbols

as verbs: log off, log out, or *sign off*. By logging off, the user ensures that all the system resources that have been used during the session are accounted for, and any temporary files created during the session are deleted.

logon 1. (or **log on**) *See* login.

2. A unit of information, equal to the product of one unit of *bandwidth by one unit of time, in Denis Gabor's physical theory of communication. In contrast, Shannon's mathematical theory of communication uses the concept of *entropy.

logout (or **log out**) *See* logoff.

longitudinal redundancy check (LRC) *See* cyclic redundancy check.

lookahead *Short for* carry lookahead.

lookahead unit A unit forming part of an instruction unit pipeline in computers such as *Stretch.

lookup table *See* table lookup.

loop 1. A sequence of instructions that is repeated until a prescribed condition, such as agreement with a data element or completion of a count, is satisfied. *See also* do loop.

2. A configuration of a *local area network that consists of nodes connected serially in a ring topology. *See* ring network.

3. **(local loop)** The (twisted pair) connection from a switching exchange to the subscriber terminal.

loop invariant *See* invariant.

lossless coding Coding in which no *information whatsoever is lost during the *encoding (or *decoding) process. Generally, *encryption and *decryption are lossless, as is *channel coding. Strictly, *data compaction is lossless, while *data compression is not, but the latter term is often used for the former. The decoding of (i.e. recovery from) compression and compaction are lossless. But the decoding of a signal received from a *channel is usually lossy (strictly not lossless) by design, since the *noise at least must be lost: the message entering the channel will usually have been prepared so as to permit this loss by the use of an *error-correcting code.

lossless compression Any method of *compression that allows the original data to be recovered from the compressed data. *See also* lossless coding.

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