




Microsoft

# Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
Microsoft Computer Dictionary.--5th ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-7356-1495-4

1. Computers--Dictionaries. 2. Microcomputers--Dictionaries.

AQ76.5. M52267 2002

004'.03--dc21

200219714

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 QWT 7 6 5 4 3 2

Distributed in Canada by H.B. Fenn and Company Ltd.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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Body Part No. X08-41929

**protocol stack** *n.* The set of protocols that work together on different levels to enable communication on a network. For example, TCP/IP, the protocol stack on the Internet, incorporates more than 100 standards including FTP, IP, SMTP, TCP, and Telnet. *See also* ISO/OSI reference model. *Compare* protocol suite.

**protocol suite** *n.* A set of protocols designed, usually by one vendor, as complementary parts of a protocol stack. *Compare* protocol stack.

**prototyping** *n.* The creation of a working model of a new computer system or program for testing and refinement. Prototyping is used in the development of both new hardware and software systems and new systems of information management. Tools used in the former include both hardware and support software; tools used in the latter can include databases, screen mockups, and simulations that, in some cases, can be developed into a final product.

**proxy** *n.* A computer (or the software that runs on it) that acts as a barrier between a network and the Internet by presenting only a single network address to external sites. By acting as a go-between representing all internal computers, the proxy protects network identities while still providing access to the Internet. *See also* proxy server.

**proxy server** *n.* A firewall component that manages Internet traffic to and from a local area network (LAN) and can provide other features, such as document caching and access control. A proxy server can improve performance by supplying frequently requested data, such as a popular Web page, and can filter and discard requests that the owner does not consider appropriate, such as requests for unauthorized access to proprietary files. *See also* firewall.

**PrtSc key** *n.* *See* Print Screen key.

**.ps** *n.* The file extension that identifies PostScript printer files. *See also* PostScript.

**PS/2 bus** *n.* *See* Micro Channel Architecture.

**PSD** *n.* A graphics file format used to create, modify, and display still images in Photoshop, a software application designed by Adobe Systems. PSD files have a file extension of .psd.

it is portable to all computers for which it exists. The p-code approach has been tried in the microcomputer industry, with mixed results. A well-known attempt was the UCSD p-System pseudocode. *See also* pseudomachine, UCSD p-code. *See also* pseudomachine, UCSD p-code. Informal, transparent notation in which the algorithm description is written. Many programmers write their programs first in a pseudocode that is a mixture of English and their favorite programming language, such as C or Pascal, and then translate the code line into the actual language being used.

**pseudo compiler** *n.* A compiler that generates code for a language. *See also* pseudolanguage.

**pseudocomputer** *n.* *See* pseudomachine.

**pseudolanguage** *n.* A nonexistent programming language—that is, one for which no implementation exists. The term can refer either to the machine language of a nonexistent processor or to a high-level language for which no compiler exists. *See also* pseudocode.

**pseudomachine** *n.* A processor that does not exist in hardware but that is emulated in software. Code written for the pseudomachine can run on real hardware without having to be recompiled. *See also* pseudocode, UCSD p-code.

**pseudo-op** *n.* *See* pseudo-operation.

**pseudo-operation** *n.* In programming, an instruction that conveys information to an assembler but is not translated into a machine language. For example, an instruction that establishes a loop constant or the manner in which Boolean expressions are to be evaluated. *Abbreviation:* pseudo-op.

**pseudo-streaming** *n.* A method used for the playback of audio and video over the Web. Unlike true streaming, video files that are downloaded to a computer are not entirely played back before they can be played back. Pseudo-streaming enables playback after only a portion of the file has been downloaded to fill a buffer on the receiving computer. Pseudo-streaming, unlike true streaming, does not depend on server software to monitor the transmission. It can, however,