



FLEX LOGIX EXHIBIT 1053  
Flex Logix Technologies v. Venkat Konda  
IPR2020-00261

Page 1 of 3



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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — Eleventh ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-87779-807-9 (Laminated unindexed : alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-808-7 (Jacketed hardcover unindexed : alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-809-5 (Jacketed hardcover with CD-ROM : alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-810-9 (Leatherlook with CD-ROM : alk. paper). — 0-87779-813-3 (Canadian). — 0-87779-814-1 (international).

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Title: Collegiate dictionary. II. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M36 2003

423—dc21

2003003674

CIP

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**plus** *n*, *pl* **plus-es** \ˈplʌ-səz/ also **plus-ees** (1654) 1: PLUS SIGN 2: an added quantity 3: a positive factor or quality 4: SURPLUS  
**plus prep** (1668) 1: increased by: with the addition of ⟨four ~ five⟩ (principal ~ interest) 2: BESIDES — used chiefly in speech and casual writing (~ all this, as a sedative it has no equal — Groucho Marx)  
**plus conj** (ca. 1950) 1: AND ⟨the Smyth Report, ~ an idea and some knowledge of bureaucracy, were all I needed — Pat Frank⟩ ⟨cats alone, a hot beef sandwich ~ apple pie — Garrison Keillor⟩ 2: in addition to which ⟨it was an achievement. Plus, I wrote the story and the musical score — Jackie Gleason⟩ ⟨it's also pretty on my open shelves, ~ it smells good — Nikki Giovanni⟩  
**usage** The preposition *plus* has long been used with a meaning equivalent to *and* (as in “two plus two”); it is not, therefore, very surprising that in time people have begun to use it as a conjunction much like *and*. Sense 2 is considered to be an adverb by some commentators. It is used chiefly in speech and in informal writing.  
**plus fours** *n pl* (1920): loose sports knickers made four inches longer than ordinary knickers  
**plush** \ˈplʌʃ/ *n* [MF *peluche*] (1594): a fabric with an even pile longer and less dense than velvet pile  
**plushy** \ˈplʌʃ-i/ *adj* (ca. 1645) 1: relating to, resembling, or made of plush 2 a: notably luxurious b: RICH, FULL ⟨the ~ sound of his saxophone playing⟩ ⟨a ~, ripe wine⟩ — **plush-ly** *adv* — **plush-ness** *n*  
**plushy** \ˈplʌ-shē/ *adj* **plush-i-er**; -**est** (1611) 1: having the texture of or covered with plush 2: LUXURIOUS, SHOWY — **plush-i-ness** *n*  
**plus/minus sign** *n* (1971): the sign ± used to indicate a quantity (as 2 in “the square root of 4 is ±2”) taking on both an algebraically positive value and its negative and to indicate a plus or minus quantity (as 4 in “the population age was 30 ± 4 years”) — called also *plus/minus symbol*  
**plus or minus** *adj* (1926): indicating a quantity whose algebraically positive and negative values serve to bracket a range of values either alone or when added to and subtracted from a given number (measured with an accuracy of plus or minus 3 feet) ⟨a mummy aged 3500 plus or minus 150 years⟩  
**plus or minus** *adv* (1849): MORE OR LESS, APPROXIMATELY ⟨a dance for singles plus or minus age 30⟩  
**plus-sage** \ˈplʌ-sij/ *n* (1924): an amount over and above another amount  
**plus sign** *n (1841): a sign + denoting addition or a positive quantity  
**Plu-to** \ˈplʌ-(t)to/ *n* [L *Pluton*-, *Pluto*, fr. Gk *Ploutōn*] (14c) 1: the Greek god of the underworld — compare DIS 2 [NL]: the planet with the farthest mean distance from the sun — see PLANET table  
**plu-toc-ra-cy** \plū-ˈtā-kra-sē/ *n*, *pl* -**cies** [Gk *ploutokratia*, fr. *ploutos* wealth; akin to Gk *plein* to sail, float — more at FLOW] (1652) 1: government by the wealthy 2: a controlling class of the wealthy — **plu-to-crat-ic** \plū-tā-ˈkrā-tik/ *adj* [L *Pluton*-, *Pluto*] (1833) 1: formed by solidification of magma deep within the earth and crystalline throughout (~ rock) 2 *often cap*: PLUTONIAN  
**plu-to-ni-um** \plū-ˈtō-nē-əm/ *n* [NL, fr. *Pluton*-, *Pluto*, the planet Pluto] (1942): a radioactive metallic element similar chemically to uranium that is formed as the isotope 239 by decay of neptunium and found in minute quantities in pitchblende, that undergoes slow disintegration with the emission of an alpha particle to form uranium 235, and that is fissionable with slow neutrons to yield atomic energy — see ELEMENT table  
**plu-vi-al** \plū-vē-əl/ *adj* [L *pluvialis*, fr. *pluvia* rain, fr. fem. of *pluvius* rainy, fr. *pluere* to rain — more at FLOW] (ca. 1656) 1 a: of or relating to rain b: characterized by abundant rain 2 of a geologic change resulting from the action of rain  
**pluvial** *n* (1929): a prolonged period of wet climate*

**ply** *v* \pli-ˈwid/ *n* (1907): a structural material consisting of sheets of wood glued or cemented together with the grains of adjacent layers arranged at right angles or at a wide angle  
**pm** *abbr* 1 phase modulation 2 premium  
**Pm** *symbol* promethium  
**PM** *abbr 1 paymaster 2 permanent magnet 3 postmaster 4 postmeridian — often not cap and often punctuated 5 postmortem prime minister 7 provost marshal  
**pmk** *abbr* postmark  
**PMS** \pē-(j)em-es/ *n* (1976): PREMENSTRUAL SYNDROME  
**pmt** *abbr* payment  
**PN** *abbr promissory note  
**-pnea** or **-pnoea** *n* *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *-pnoia*, fr. *pnoia*, fr. *pnein* breathe]: breath: breathing (hyperpnea) (apnoea)  
**pneum-** or **pneumo-** *comb form* [NL, partly fr. Gk *pneum-* (fr. *pneuma*); partly fr. Gk *pneūnōn* lung] 1: air: gas (pneumothorax): lung (pneumococci) 3: respiration (pneumograph) 4: pneumonia (pneumococcus)  
**pneu-ma** \nu-mə-, nyū- / *n* [Gk] (1884): SOUL, SPIRIT  
**pneumat-** or **pneumato-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *pneumat-*, *pneuma*]: air: vapor: gas (pneumatolytic) 2: respiration (pneumatophore)  
**pneu-matic** \nu-ma-tik, nyū- / *adj* [L *pneumaticus*, fr. Gk *pneuma* kos, fr. *pneumat-*, *pneuma* air, breath, spirit, fr. *pnein* to breathe: more at SNEEZE] (1659) 1: of, relating to, or using gas (as air, wind): a: moved or worked by air pressure b (1): adapted for holding or inflated with compressed air (2): having air-filled cavities: of or relating to the pneuma: SPIRITUAL 3: having a well proportioned feminine figure; esp: having a full bust — **pneu-matic-ly** \-ti-k(-)lē/ *adv* — **pneu-matic-ly** \nu-mə-ˈti-sə-tē, nyū- / *n*  
**pneu-ma-toi-o-gy** \nu-ma-ˈtā-i-ə-jē, nyū- / *n* [NL *pneumatologia*, Gk *pneumat-*, *pneuma* + NL *-logia* -logy] (1678): the study of spirit beings or phenomena  
**pneu-ma-to-lytic** \nu-ma-tō-ˈli-tik, nyū- / (j)nyū-ma- / *adj* [IS (1896): formed or forming by hot vapors or superheated liquids under pressure — used esp. of minerals and ores  
**pneu-mat-o-phore** \nu-ma-tə-,fōr, nyū- / *n* [ISV] (1859) 1: a muscular gas-containing sac that serves as a float on a siphonophore colony 2: a usu. partially exposed root of a wetland plant (as a mangrove) whose functions esp. in the intake of oxygen from the atmosphere  
**pneu-mo-coc-cus** \nu-mə-ˈkə-kəs, nyū- / *n*, *pl* -**coc-ci** \-ˈkək-ē-sī, -ˈkək-ē, -ˈkē/ [NL] (1890): a bacterium (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*) that causes an acute pneumonia involving one or more lobes of the lung — **pneu-mo-coc-cal** \-ˈkək-kəl/ *adj*  
**pneu-mo-co-ni-o-sis** \nu-mə-ˈkō-ni-ō-sis, nyū- / *n*, *pl* -**o-ses** \-sē [NL, fr. *pneum-* + Gk *kōnis* dust — more at INCINGERATE] (1881): a disease of the lungs caused by the habitual inhalation of irritants (as mineral or metallic particles) — compare BLACK LUNG, SILICOSIS  
**Pneu-mo-cyst-is** *car-i-ni-i* pneumonia \nu-mə-ˈsis-tas-kə-ˈrī-nē-, nyū- / *n* [NL *Pneumocystis carinii*, species name] (1964): a pneumonitis chiefly affecting immunocompromised individuals that is caused by microorganism (*Pneumocystis carinii*), attacks esp. the interstitial alveolar tissues of the lungs, and is characterized esp. by a nonproductive cough, shortness of breath, and fever — *abbr.* PCP  
**pneu-mo-graph** \ˈnu-mə-ˈgraf, nyū- / *n* [ISV] (1878): an instrument for recording thoracic movements or volume change during respiration  
**pneu-mo-nec-to-my** \nu-mə-ˈnek-tə-mē, nyū- / *n*, *pl* -**mies** [C *pneumōn* + ISV *-ectomy*] (1890): excision of an entire lung or of one or more lobes of a lung  
**pneu-mo-nia** \nu-mō-nyə, nyū- / *n* [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *pneumōn* lung, *alt.* of *pneumōn* — more at PULMONARY] (1603): a disease of the lung characterized esp. by inflammation and consolidation of lung tissue followed by resolution and by fever, chills, cough, and difficulty breathing and that is caused esp. by infection  
**pneu-mo-ni-c** \nu-mā-nik, nyū- / *adj* [NL *pneumonicus*, fr. Gk *pneumonikos*, fr. *pneumōn*] (1675) 1: of, relating to, or affecting the lung (~ plague): PULMONIC, PULMONARY 2: of, relating to, or affected with pneumonitis  
**pneu-mo-ni-tis** \nu-mə-ˈnī-tas, nyū- / *n* [NL, fr. Gk *pneumōn*] (c. 1834): inflammation of the lungs  
**pneu-mo-tho-rax** \nu-mə-ˈthōr-aks, nyū- / *n* [NL] (1821): a condition in which air or other gas is present in the pleural cavity and which occurs spontaneously as a result of disease or injury of lung tissue, rupture of air-filled pulmonary cysts, or puncture of the chest wall or is induced as a therapeutic measure to collapse the lung**

\ə/ abut \ə/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ā/ ace \ā/ mop, mē  
 \aú/ out \ch/ chin \e/ bet \ē/ easy \g/ go \i/ hit \i/ ice \j/ jo  
 \ŋ/ sing \ō/ go \ō/ law \ó/ boy \th/ thin \th/ the \ü/ loot \ú/ fo  
 \y/ yet \zh/ vision, beige \k, ʰ, œ, w, ʸ/ see Guide to Pronunciation