

DICTIONARY OF COMPUTING

FOURTH EDITION

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PETER COLLIN PUBLISHING

Google Exhibit 1015
Google v. Parus

Fourth edition published 2002
Third edition published 1998
Second edition published 1994
First published in Great Britain 1988

Published by Peter Collin Publishing, an imprint of
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
38 Soho Square, London W1D 3HB

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

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

ISBN 1-901659-46-1

Text computer typeset by PCP
Printed and bound in Italy by Legoprint
Cover artwork by Gary Weston

wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) = method of increasing the data capacity of an optic fibre by transmitting several light signals at different wavelengths along the same fibre

wavetable *noun* memory in a sound card that contains a recording of a real musical instrument that is played back

WDM = WAVELENGTH DIVISION MULTIPLEXING

web or **www** or **world wide web** *noun* collection of the millions of websites and web pages that together form the part of the Internet that is most often seen by users (although the Internet also includes electronic mail, Usenet and newsgroups); each website is a collection of web pages; each web page contains text, graphics and links to other websites. Each page is created using the HTML language and is viewed by a user with a web browser. To navigate between web pages and websites is called surfing; this requires a computer with a link to the Internet and a web browser to view the web pages stored on the remote web servers; **web application** = software program that works behind the scenes at a website, runs on a web server and uses the HTTP protocol to deliver information to a user; an example is a database of information that can be searched from a web page or a method of ordering and paying for a product using a web page; **web browser** = *see* BROWSER; **web cam** = video camera linked to a website that allows visitors to see live video images of a scene - these devices have become very popular and have been used to display inside an office, the view over a city, an office coffee machine, inside a bedroom and many other scenes; **web crawler** = software that moves over every new Web page on the Internet and produces an index based on the content of the Web pages; **web page** = single file stored on a Web server that contains formatted text, graphics and hypertext links to other pages on the Internet or within a website; **web page design software** = software that provides features that make it easier for a user to create web pages; new design software is similar to desktop publishing software and allows you to drag text and images onto a page, create tables, and

without having to edit complex HTML commands; **web portal** = website that provides a wide range of information and resources that tries to include everything a particular user might want from the Internet, on one site; the biggest web portals include AOL, MSN, Yahoo! and Excite that offer a wide range of general services including news, sports, email, weather, shopping and a search engine; *see also* VERTICAL PORTAL; **web server** = computer that stores the collection of Web pages that make up a Website; **website** = collection of web pages that are linked and related and can be accessed by a user with a web browser; for example, the Peter Collin Publishing website has different web pages for each dictionary, a web page for new titles and an online dictionary, it can be accessed from the home page at the URL 'http://www.pcp.co.uk'; *see also* BROWSER, HYPERLINK, URL, WEB PAGE; **WebBot** = utility used in Microsoft Internet software that helps a user create a particular function in a Web page; **webmaster** = person in charge of a website; *if you have a problem or complaint about a web you could send an email message to* 'webmaster@pcp.co.uk'; **WebTV** = television that also lets you view web pages; some TVs include a computer and modem, other systems use an external box that links to the TV and a telephone socket; some interactive television and cable television installations do not use a telephone socket but instead download and display web pages via the television cable.

weighted bit *noun* each bit having a different value depending on its position in a word

weighting *noun* sorting of users, programs or data by their importance or priority

well-behaved *adjective* (program) which does not make any non-standard system calls, using only the standard BIOS input/output calls rather than directly addressing peripherals or memory

wetware *noun* US (*informal*) the human brain, intelligence which writes software to be used with hardware

What-You-See-Is-All-You-Get

(WYSIWYG) *noun* program where the