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homogeneous network *n.* A network on which all the hosts are similar and only one protocol is used.

Honeynet Project *n.* A nonprofit security research group created to collect and analyze data on hacking tools and methods by maintaining a decoy network of computers that is potentially attractive to hackers. The Honeynet Project sets up entire networks of computers in different combinations of operating systems and security to realistically simulate those used in businesses and organizations. Hackers are lured to the network where all inbound and outbound data is captured and contained to help researchers learn about hacker tactics and motives.

honeypot *n.* A security program designed to lure and distract a network attacker with decoy data. The honeypot appears to be a system that the intruder would like to crack but which, in reality, is safely separated from the actual network. This allows network administrators to observe attackers and study their activities without the intruders knowing they are being monitored. Honeypot programs get their name from the “like a bear to honey” metaphor.

honker *n.* A slang term for a hacker, the term originated in China. The Honker Union of China is an active group of Chinese hackers with nationalistic or hacktivist aims. The Honker Union of China has claimed patriotic motivation for defacing Japanese and U.S. Web sites, hacking U.S. networks, and releasing the Lion worm and other malicious programs. *See also* hacktivist, Lion worm.

hook *n.* A location in a routine or program in which the programmer can connect or insert other routines for the purpose of debugging or enhancing functionality.

hop *n.* In data communications, one segment of the path between routers on a geographically dispersed network. A hop is comparable to one “leg” of a journey that includes intervening stops between the starting point and the destination. The distance between each of those stops (routers) would be a communications hop.

horizontal blanking interval *n.* *See* blanking, horizontal retrace.

horizontal flyback *n.* *See* horizontal retrace.

horizontal market *n.* A broad category of business activity, such as accounting or inventory control, that carries across many types of business. *Compare* vertical market.

horizontal market software *n.* Application programs, such as word processors, that can be used in all types of business, as opposed to those geared for a certain industry.

horizontal retrace *n.* The movement of the electron beam in a raster-scan video display from the right end of one scan line to the left end (the beginning) of the next. During horizontal retrace, the electron beam is turned off, so the time required for the beam to move is called the horizontal blanking interval. *See also* blanking. *Compare* vertical retrace.

horizontal scrolling *n.* A feature of programs such as word processors and spreadsheets that enables the user to scroll left and right to display information beyond the horizontal limits of the screen (or window, in a graphical user interface).

horizontal synchronization *n.* On raster displays, the timing produced by a signal that controls the sweep of the display’s electron beam as it moves from left to right and back again to form an image line by line. The horizontal synchronization signal is usually controlled by a circuit known as a phase-locked loop, which maintains a constant precise frequency so that a clear image is formed.

host¹ *n.* **1.** The main computer in a mainframe or mini-computer environment—that is, the computer to which terminals are connected. **2.** In PC-based networks, a computer that provides access to other computers. **3.** On the Internet or other large networks, a server computer that has access to other computers on the network. A host computer provides services, such as news, mail, or data, to computers that connect to it.

host² *vb.* To provide services to client computers that connect from remote locations—for example, to offer Internet access or to be the source for a news or mail service.

host adapter *n.* A device for connecting a peripheral to the main computer, typically in the form of an expansion card. *Also called:* controller, host bus adapter.

hosting *n.* The practice of providing computer and communication facilities to businesses or individuals, especially for use in creating Web and electronic commerce sites. A hosting service can provide high-speed access to the Internet, redundant power and data storage, and 24-hour maintenance at lower cost than implementing the same services independently. *See also* host², virtual hosting.

Host Integration Server *n.* A software application from Microsoft Corporation to allow businesses to integrate existing application, data, and network assets with new business applications and technologies. Host Integration Server preserves a company’s existing legacy infrastructure and investments, while providing out-of-the-box

(asymmetric digital subscriber line) that is capable of adjusting transmission speed (bandwidth) based on signal quality and length of the transmission line. As the signal quality improves or deteriorates while a transmission line is being used, the transmission speed is adjusted accordingly. *See also* ADSL, xDSL.

rag *n.* Irregularity along the left or right edge of a set of lines of text on a printed page. Rag complements justification, in which one or both edges of the text form a straight vertical line. *See the illustration. See also* justify, ragged left, ragged right.



Rag.

ragged left *adj.* Of, relating to, or being lines of text whose left ends are not vertically aligned but form an irregular edge. Text may be right-justified and have a ragged left margin. Ragged-left text is used infrequently—typically, for visual effect in advertisements. *See also* rag, right-justify.

ragged right *adj.* Of, relating to, or being lines of text whose right ends are not vertically aligned but form an irregular edge. Letters and other word-processed documents are commonly left-justified, with ragged-right margins. *See also* left-justify, rag.

RAID *n.* Acronym for redundant array of independent (or inexpensive) disks. A data storage method in which data is distributed across a group of computer disk drives that function as a single storage unit. All the information stored on each of the disks is duplicated on other disks in the array. This redundancy ensures that no information will be lost if one of the disks fails. RAID is generally used on network servers where data accessibility is critical and fault tolerance is required. There are various defined levels of RAID, each offering differing trade-offs among access speed, reliability, and cost. *See also* disk controller, error-correction coding, Hamming code, hard disk, parity bit, server (definition 1).

RAID array *n.* *See* RAID.

RAM *n.* Acronym for random access memory. Semiconductor-based memory that can be read and written by the central processing unit (CPU) or other hardware devices. The storage locations can be accessed in any order. Note that the various types of ROM memory are capable of random access but cannot be written to. The term *RAM*, however, is generally understood to refer to volatile memory that can be written to as well as read. *Compare* core, EPROM, flash memory, PROM, ROM (definition 2).

RAMAC *n.* **1.** Acronym for Random Access Method of Accounting Control. Developed by an IBM team led by Reynold B. Johnson, RAMAC was the first computer disk drive. It was introduced in 1956. The original RAMAC consisted of a stack of 50 24-inch platters, with a storage capacity of 5 megabytes and an average access time of 1 second. **2.** A high-speed, high-capacity disk storage system introduced by IBM in 1994. Based on the original RAMAC storage device, it was designed to fulfill enterprise requirements for efficient and fault-tolerant storage.

Rambus DRAM *n.* *See* RDRAM.

Rambus dynamic random access memory *n.* *See* RDRAM.

RAM cache *n.* Short for random access memory cache. Cache memory that is used by the system to store and retrieve data from the RAM. Frequently accessed segments of data may be stored in the cache for quicker access compared with secondary storage devices such as disks. *See also* cache, RAM.

RAM card *n.* Short for random access memory card. An add-in circuit board containing RAM memory and the interface logic necessary to decode memory addresses.

RAM cartridge *n.* *See* memory cartridge.

RAM chip *n.* Short for random access memory chip. A semiconductor storage device. RAM chips can be either dynamic or static memory. *See also* dynamic RAM, RAM, static RAM.

RAM compression *n.* Short for random access memory compression. This technology was an attempt by a number of software vendors to solve the problem of running out of global memory under Windows 3.x. Compression of the usual contents of RAM may lessen the system's need to read or write to virtual (hard disk-based) memory and thus speed up the system, as virtual memory is much slower than physical RAM. Because of the falling prices of RAM and the introduction of operating systems that handle RAM

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