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# Computer Dictionary

Third Edition

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**AUX** \äks, ôks, A`U-X` \ *n.* The logical device name for auxiliary device; a name reserved by the MS-DOS operating system for the standard auxiliary device. AUX usually refers to a system's first serial port, also known as COM1.

**A/UX** \A`U-X` \ *n.* A version of the multiuser, multitasking UNIX operating system provided by Apple Computer for various Macintosh computers and based on the AT&T System V, release 2.2 of UNIX with some enhancements. A/UX incorporates a number of Apple features, including support for the Macintosh Toolbox, so that applications can provide users with the graphics-based interface characteristic of that computer. *See also* System V.

**auxiliary equipment** \äks-il`ē-âr-ē i-kwip`mənt, ôks-il`ē-âr-ē, äks-il`yər-ē, ôks-il`yər-ē\ *n.* *See* peripheral.

**auxiliary storage** \äks-il`ē-âr-ē stôr`əj, ôks-il`ē-âr-ē, äks-il`yər-ē, ôks-il`yər-ē\ *n.* Any storage medium, such as disk or tape, not directly accessed by a computer's microprocessor, as is random access memory (RAM). In current usage, such media are typically referred to as *storage* or *permanent storage*, and the RAM chips that the microprocessor uses directly for temporary storage are referred to as *memory*.

**availability** \ə-vā`lə-bil`ə-tē\ *n.* In processing, the accessibility of a computer system or resource, such as a printer, in terms of usage or of the percentage of the total amount of time the device is needed.

**available time** \ə-vā`lə-bl tīm` \ *n.* *See* uptime.

**avatar** \av`ə-tär` \ *n.* **1.** In virtual-reality environments such as certain types of Internet chat rooms, a graphical representation of a user. An avatar typically is a generic picture or animation of a human

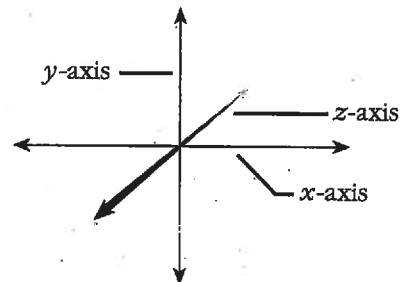
of either gender, a photograph or caricature of the user, a picture or animation of an animal, or an object chosen by the user to depict his or her virtual-reality "identity." **2.** *See* superuser.

**.avi** \dot`A-V-I` \ *n.* The file extension that identifies an audiovisual interleaved data file in the Microsoft RIFF format.

**AVI** \A`V-I` \ *n.* Acronym for **A**udio **V**ideo. Interleaved. A Windows multimedia file format for sound and moving pictures that uses the Microsoft RIFF (Resource Interchange File Format) specification.

**.aw** \dot`A-W` \ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Aruba.

**axis** \aks`is\ *n.* In a chart or other two-dimensional system using coordinates, the horizontal line (*x*-axis) or vertical line (*y*-axis) that serves as a reference for plotting points. In a three-dimensional coordinate system, a third line (*z*-axis) is used to represent depth. *See* the illustration. *See also* Cartesian coordinates.



*Axis.*

**.az** \dot`A-Z` \ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Azerbaijan.