

Microsoft

# Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition

- *Fully updated with the latest technologies, terms, and acronyms*
- *Easy to read, expertly illustrated*
- *Definitive coverage of hardware, software, the Internet, and more!*



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**Acquisitions Editor:** Alex Blanton

**Project Editor:** Sandra Haynes

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**mainframe** *n.* Mainframe computers are characterized by their ability to simultaneously support many users connected to the computer by terminals. The name is derived from "main frame," the cabinet originally used to house the processing unit of such computers. *See also* computer, supercomputer.

**main function** *n.* The main body of a program written in a computer language that uses sets of functions to create an entire program. For example, the C language requires each program to contain a function called *main*, which C uses as the starting point of execution. *See also* main body.

**main loop** *n.* A loop in the main body of a program that performs the principal function of the program over and over until termination is somehow signaled. In event-driven programs, this loop checks for events received from the operating system and handles them appropriately. *See also* event-driven programming, main body.

**main memory** *n.* *See* primary storage.

**main segment** *n.* On the Macintosh, the principal code segment of a program, which must remain loaded throughout the execution of the program.

**maintenance** *n.* The process of taking measures to ensure that a hardware, software, or database system is functioning properly and is up to date.

**Majordomo** *n.* The name of a popular software program that manages and supports Internet mailing lists. *See also* mailing list, mailing list manager.

**major geographic domain** *n.* A two-character sequence in an Internet domain name address that indicates the country/region in which a host is located. The major geographic domain is the last part of the domain name address, following the subdomain and domain codes; for example, uiuc.edu.us indicates a host at the University of Illinois in the United States, whereas cam.ac.uk indicates a host at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. The code .us, which indicates a domain in the United

States, translates access privileges into permissions. A user who has the Make Changes privilege is given View and Delete permissions. *See also* permission.

**make-table query** *n.* In Microsoft Office, an action that moves the resulting data to a new table in either the current database or another database.

**male connector** *n.* A type of connector that has pins for insertion into receptacles. Male connector part numbers often include an *M* (male) or *P* (plug). For example, a male DB-25 connector might be labeled *DB-25M* or *25P*. *See* the illustration. *Compare* female connector.



**Male connector.**

**malicious mobile code** *n.* A virus or other destructive program that takes advantage of security weaknesses in wireless transmission systems. Malicious mobile code may affect computers, PDAs, Internet-capable digital phones, and other wireless networking devices.

**malware** *n.* Software created and distributed for malicious purposes, such as invading computer systems in the form of viruses, worms, or innocent-seeming plug-in extensions that mask other destructive capabilities. *Also called:* malicious software.

**MAME** *n.* Acronym for Multiple Arcade Machine Emulator. MAME is software written in C that emulates the hardware and software of original arcade games, allowing them to run on PCs. *See also* arcade game, C.

**MAN** *n.* Acronym for metropolitan area network. A high-speed network that can carry voice, data, and images at speeds up to 200 Mbps or faster over distances of up to 75 km. In a mesh network architecture, the transmission speed can be higher for shorter distances. A MAN, which can include