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CONTENTS

victim. For examples, *see* MAIL BOMBING; PING FLOODING. *See also* COMPUTER SECURITY.

DES (**D**igital **E**ncryption **S**tandard) an encryption system using 56-bit keys in a complicated 16-round substitution process. It has been a federal standard since 1976.

FIGURE 72. DESCENDERS

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descender the part of a character that extends below the baseline. For instance, the letter *p* has a descender; the letter *o* does not. *See* ASCENDER; TYPEFACE.

deselect to tell the computer you do not want to work with a particular object. There are minor differences in how different software does this, but clicking on the background or another object will usually deselect the current object. If you want to select multiple objects, you can hold down Ctrl while clicking on the desired objects. This allows you to select as many items as you want. To deselect just one item of a group, click on it again while continuing to hold Ctrl. If you are choosing between mutually exclusive options in a dialog box, choosing one button will clear the others (*see* RADIO BUTTONS; OPTION BUTTONS).

Hint: If you wish to select all but one or two objects in a drawing, the fastest way is to "Select All" (either by using the edit menu option or by MARQUEE SELECT), and then deselect the unwanted objects.

desk accessory a small, useful program that is meant to be always at hand while you are working at your computer. Examples include the clock, calculator, Character Map (KeyCaps for Mac users) and the Control Panel. All Macintosh programs provide access to the Desk Accessories under the Apple menu. Windows desk accessories are found in the Accessories program group.

deskew to straighten; to undo the effects of a SKEW command.

desktop the whole computer screen, representing your workspace. You manipulate objects (ICONS) with the mouse in much the same way that you work with papers and other objects on your physical desktop.

On the Macintosh and in OS/2, the desktop is also a special file containing information about the arrangement of icons, the programs you are using, and the like. This information is saved whenever you

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