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Table E.1 Exclusive OR.

<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a XOR b</i>
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

.exe *n.* In MS-DOS, a filename extension that indicates that a file is an executable program. To run an executable program, the user types the filename without the .exe extension at the prompt and presses Enter. *See also* executable program.

executable¹ *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or being a program file that can be run. Executable files have extensions such as .bat, .com, and .exe.

executable² *n.* A program file that can be run, such as file0.bat, file1.exe, or file2.com.

executable program *n.* A program that can be run. The term usually applies to a compiled program translated into machine code in a format that can be loaded into memory and run by a computer's processor. In interpreter languages, an executable program can be source code in the proper format. *See also* code (definition 1), compiler (definition 2), computer program, interpreter, source code.

execute *vb.* To perform an instruction. In programming, execution implies loading the machine code of the program into memory and then performing the instructions.

execute in place *n.* The process of executing code directly from ROM, rather than loading it from RAM first. Executing the code in place, instead of copying the code into RAM for execution, saves system resources. Applications in other file systems, such as on a PC Card storage device, cannot be executed in this way. *Acronym:* XIP.

execution time *n.* The time, measured in clock ticks (pulses of a computer's internal timer), required by a microprocessor to decode and carry out an instruction after it is fetched from memory. *Also called:* E-time. *See also* instruction time.

executive *n.* The set of kernel-mode components that form the base operating system for Microsoft Windows NT or later. *See also* operating system.

executive information system *n.* A set of tools designed to organize information into categories and reports. Because it emphasizes information, an executive information system differs from a decision support system

(DSS), which is designed for analysis and decision making. *Acronym:* EIS. *Compare* decision support system.

exerciser *n.* A program that exercises a piece of hardware or software by running it through a large set of operations.

exit *vb.* In a program, to move from the called routine back to the calling routine. A routine can have more than one exit point, thus allowing termination based on various conditions.

expanded *adj.* A font style that sets characters farther apart than the normal spacing. *Compare* condensed.

expanded memory *n.* A type of memory, up to 8 MB, that can be added to IBM PCs. Its use is defined by the Expanded Memory Specification (EMS). Expanded memory is not accessible to programs in MS-DOS, so the Expanded Memory Manager (EMM) maps pages (blocks) of bytes from expanded memory into page frames in accessible memory areas. Expanded memory is not needed in Windows 9x, all versions of Windows NT, and Windows 2000. *See also* EEMS, EMS, Expanded Memory Manager, page frame.

Expanded Memory Manager *n.* A driver that implements the software portion of the Expanded Memory Specification (EMS) to make expanded memory in IBM and compatible PCs accessible. *Acronym:* EMM. *See also* EMS, expanded memory, extended memory.

Expanded Memory Specification *n.* *See* EMS.

expansion *n.* A way of increasing a computer's capabilities by adding hardware that performs tasks that are not part of the basic system. Expansion is usually achieved by plugging printed circuit boards (expansion boards) into openings (expansion slots) inside the computer. *See also* expansion board, expansion slot, open architecture (definition 2), PC Card, PCMCIA slot.

expansion board *n.* A circuit board that is plugged into a computer's bus (main data transfer path) to add extra functions or resources to the computer. Typical expansion boards add memory, disk drive controllers, video support, parallel and serial ports, and internal modems. For laptops and other portable computers, expansion boards come in credit card-sized devices called PC Cards that plug into a slot in the side or back of the computer. *Also called:* expansion board, extender board. *See also* expansion slot, PC Card, PCMCIA slot.

expansion bus *n.* A group of control lines that provide a buffered interface to devices. These devices can be located

computers and special-purpose devices such as digital cameras and cellular telephones.

micro-electromechanical systems *n.* See MEMS.

microelectronics *n.* The technology of constructing electronic circuits and devices in very small packages. The most significant advance in microelectronics technology has been the integrated circuit. Circuits that 40 years ago required a roomful of power-hungry vacuum tubes can now be fabricated on a silicon chip smaller than a postage stamp and require only a few milliwatts of power. *See also* integrated circuit.

microfiche *n.* A small sheet of film, about 4 by 6 inches, used for recording photographically reduced images, such as document pages, in rows and columns forming a grid pattern. The resulting images are too small to read with the naked eye, and a microfiche reader is required to view the documents. *Compare* microfilm.

microfilm *n.* A thin strip of film stored on a roll and used to record sequential data images. As with microfiche, a special device magnifies the images so that they can be read. *See also* CIM (definition 2), COM (definition 4). *Compare* microfiche.

microfloppy disk *n.* A 3.5-inch floppy disk of the type used with the Macintosh and with IBM and compatible microcomputers. A microfloppy disk is a round piece of polyester film coated with ferric oxide and encased in a rigid plastic shell equipped with a sliding metal cover. On the Macintosh, a single-sided microfloppy disk can hold 400 kilobytes (KB); a double-sided (standard) disk can hold 800 KB; and a double-sided high-density disk can hold 1.44 megabytes (MB). On IBM and compatible machines, a microfloppy can hold either 720 KB or 1.44 MB of information. *See also* floppy disk.

microfluidics *n.* Technology for control and manipulation of fluids on a microscopic scale using microscopic pumps and valves placed on a chip. Microfluidics devices have implications for a number of medical, pharmaceutical, genomics, and other biotechnology applications.

microform *n.* The medium, such as microfilm or microfiche, on which a photographically reduced image, called a *microimage*, is stored. A microimage usually represents text, such as archived documents. *See also* microfiche, microfilm, micrographics.

micrographics *n.* The techniques and methods for recording data on microfilm. *See also* microform.

microimage *n.* A photographically reduced image, usually stored on microfilm or microfiche, that is too small to be read without magnification. *See also* microform, micrographics.

microinstruction *n.* An instruction that is part of the microcode. *See also* microcode.

microjustification *n.* *See* microspace justification.

microkernel *n.* **1.** In programming, the strictly hardware-dependent part of an operating system that is intended to be portable from one type of computer to another. The microkernel provides a hardware-independent interface to the rest of the operating system, so only the microkernel needs to be rewritten to port the operating system to a different platform. *See also* kernel, operating system. **2.** A kernel that has been designed with only the basic features and typically in a modular fashion.

micrologic *n.* A set of instructions, stored in binary form, or a set of electronic logic circuits that defines and governs the operation within a microprocessor.

microminiature *n.* An extremely small circuit or other electronic component, especially one that is a refinement of an already miniaturized element.

microphone *n.* **1.** A device that converts sound waves into analog electrical signals. Additional hardware can convert the microphone's output into digital data that a computer can process; for example, to record multimedia documents or analyze the sound signal. **2.** A communications program that runs on the Macintosh computer.

microphotonics *n.* Technology for directing light on a microscopic scale. Microphotonics employs tiny mirrors or photonic crystals to reflect and transmit specific wavelengths of light, which can carry digital signals. Microphotonics technology has implications for optical networks under development for the telecommunications industry. *See also* MEMS, optical switching.

microprocessor *n.* A central processing unit (CPU) on a single chip. A modern microprocessor can have several million transistors in an integrated-circuit package that can easily fit into the palm of one's hand. Microprocessors are at the heart of all personal computers. When memory and power are added to a microprocessor, all the pieces, excluding peripherals, required for a computer are present.



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