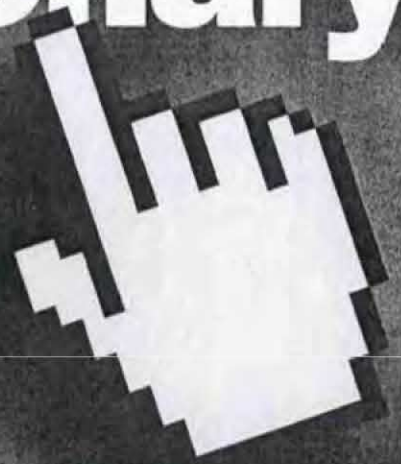A Use-Every-Day Computer Reference

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ADJ *n.* Short for **adjacent**. A Boolean qualifier to indicate cases where two instances are adjacent to each other. In the case of a search string, "Microsoft ADJ Word" would return only instances where "Microsoft" and "Word" are adjacent in the string.

ADN *n.* *See* Advanced Digital Network.

ADP *n.* *See* data processing.

ADPCM *n.* *See* adaptive delta pulse code modulation.

ADSL *n.* *See* asymmetric digital subscriber line.

Advanced Digital Network *n.* A dedicated line service capable of transmitting data, video, and other digital signals with exceptional reliability, offered as a premier service by communications companies. Usually Advanced Digital Network refers to speeds at or above 56 Kbps. *See also* dedicated line.

Advanced Research Projects Agency Network *n.* *See* ARPANET.

Advanced RISC *n.* Short for **Advanced r**educed **i**nstruction **s**et **c**omputing. A specification for a RISC microchip architecture and system environment designed by MIPS Computer Systems to provide binary compatibility among software applications. *See also* RISC.

AFK *adv.* Acronym for **a**way **f**rom **k**eyboard. A phrase occasionally seen in live chat services as an indication that one is momentarily unable to answer. *See also* chat¹ (definition 1).

agent *n.* **1.** A program that performs a background task for a user and reports to the user when the task is done or some expected event has taken place. **2.** A program that searches through archives or other repositories of information on a topic specified by the user. Agents of this sort are used most often on the Internet and are generally dedicated to searching a single type of information repository, such as postings on Usenet groups. *Also called* intelligent agent. *See also* spider. **3.** In client/server applications, a process that mediates between the client and the server. **4.** In Simple Network Management Protocol, a program that monitors network traffic. *See also* SNMP.

AI *n.* *See* artificial intelligence.

.aiff *n.* The file extension that identifies audio files in the sound format originally used on Apple and Silicon Graphics (SGI) computers.

AIFF *n.* The sound format originally used on Apple and Silicon Graphics (SGI) computers. AIFF stores waveform files in an 8-bit monaural format. *See also* waveform.

alert box *n.* An on-screen box, in a graphical user interface, that is used to deliver a message or warning. *Compare* dialog box.

algorithm *n.* A finite sequence of steps for solving a logical or mathematical problem.

alias *n.* **1.** An alternative label for some object, such as a file or data collection. **2.** A name used to direct e-mail messages to a person or group of people on a network. **3.** A false signal that results from the digitization of an analog audio sample.

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