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# ENCYCLOPEDIA.

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## Definition of: agent

A software routine that waits in the background and performs an action when a specified event occurs. For example, agents could transmit a summary file on the first day of the month or monitor incoming data and alert the user when a certain transaction has arrived. Agents are also called "intelligent agents," "personal agents" and "bots." See [mobile agent](#), [bot](#) and [workflow](#).



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