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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 reduced instruction set computing**. 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 **away from keyboard**. A phrase occasionally seen in live chat services as an indication that one is momentarily unable to answer. See also **chat**¹ (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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