IBM

Dictionary of Computing

▼ The most comprehensive computing dictionary ever published

▼ More than 18,000 entries

General Computing

Now, finally, EVERYONE can own t
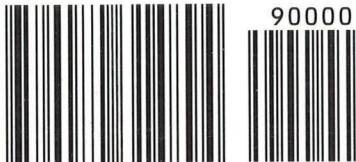*computing dictionary ev*

IBM Dictionary of Computing

For the first time ever, the superb *IBM Dictionary of Computing*—a one-of-a-kind reference that's unmatched in breadth and scope by any other computing dictionary—is being made available to the general public by IBM. Long the "bible" of IBM executives, computer technicians, and programmers, the *Dictionary*, with its 18,000 entries, clear definitions and explanations, and numerous illustrations, leaves competing reference books far behind. Among its features:

- Up-to-the-minute coverage of information processing systems, communication products and facilities, personal computers, and office systems, as well as the full range of IBM hardware and software products

- Terms and definitions from *The American National Standard Dictionary for Information Systems,* ANSI X3.172-1990 … The ANSI/EIA Standard - 440-A, *Fiber Optic Terminology* … and The Information Technology Vocabulary, developed by the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC)

- The newest terms, abbreviations, and acronyms that are being used in everything from artificial intelligence to local area networks to multimedia

Whether you're a novice looking for definitions that are clear and understandable or a top-level computer professional seeking sophisticated and hard-to-come-by information not available from other sources, you'll find this peerless desk reference in a class by itself.

424-AAL-443

w-Hill, Inc.
Serving the Need for Knowledge
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

ISBN 0-07-031489-6

90000

9 780070 314894

IBM DICTIONARY OF COMPUTING

Compiled and edited by

GEORGE McDANIEL

McGRAW-HILL, INC.

New York   San Francisco   Washington, D.C.   Auckland   Bogotá
Caracas   Lisbon   London   Madrid   Mexico City   Milan
Montreal   New Delhi   San Juan   Singapore
Sydney   Tokyo   Toronto

Limitation of Liability

While the Editor and Publisher of this book have made reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of the information contained herein, neither the Editor nor the Publisher shall have any liability with respect to loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused by reliance on any information contained herein.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0   DOC/DOC   9 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

The sponsoring editor for this book was Daniel A. Gonneau and the production supervisor was Thomas G. Kowalczyk.

Printed and bound by R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company.

Tenth Edition (August 1993)

This is a major revision of the *IBM Dictionary of Computing,* SC20-1699-8, which is made obsolete by this edition. Changes are made periodically to the information provided herein.

It is possible that this material may contain reference to, or information about, IBM products (machines and programs), programming, or services that are not announced in your country. Such references or information must not be construed to mean that IBM intends to announce such IBM products, programming, or services in your country. Comments may be addressed to IBM Corporation, Department E37/656, P. O. Box 12195, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

International Edition

When ordering this title, use ISBN 0-07-113383-6.

This book is printed on acid-free paper.

switch train A sequence of switches through which connection must be made to establish a circuit between a calling telephone and a called telephone. See also train.

switch window In SAA Advanced Common User Access architecture, an action that changes the active window within an application.

switch window in multiple-document interface In SAA Advanced Common User Access architecture, an action that changes the active secondary window within a multiple-document interface application.

syllable A character string or a binary element string in a word. (I) (A)

syllable hyphen Synonym for soft hyphen. (T) (A)

syllable hyphen character (SHY) A word processing formatting graphic that prints only at syllable boundaries at line endings to indicate continuation of a word on the next line. A syllable hyphen may be ignored or dropped if words are repositioned during text adjust mode operations. Contrast with required hyphen character.

symbol (1) A graphic representation of a concept that has meaning in a specific context. (T) (2) A representation of something by reason of relationship, association, or convention. (A) (3) A name in a source document that can be replaced with something else, for example, a character string. (4) In OS/VS, any group of eight or less alphanumeric and national characters that begins with an alphabetic character or the characters (@, #, $). (5) See abstract symbol, aiming symbol, currency symbol, flowchart symbol, logic symbol, mnemonic symbol, sequence symbols, tracking symbol, variable symbol.

symbolic address An identifier that represents an address. (T)

symbolic addressing A method of addressing in which the address part of an instruction contains a symbolic address. (I) (A)

symbolic-character In COBOL, a user-defined word that specifies a user-defined figurative constant.

symbolic coding The preparation of routines and computer programs in a symbolic language. (A)

symbolic constant In FORTRAN, a named data object whose value must not change during execution of an executable program.

symbolic debugger A tool that aids in the debugging of programs written in certain high-level languages.

symbolic description map A set of source statements in a particular programming language, such as Assembler, COBOL, PL/I, or RPGII, that name and describe the variable fields of a map.

symbolic I/O assignment A means by which a problem program can refer to an I/O device by a specific I/O symbolic name. Before the program is executed, a device is assigned to the symbolic name.

symbolic language A programming language that expresses addresses and operation codes of instructions in symbols convenient to humans rather than in machine language. (A)

symbolic logic The discipline in which valid argument and operations are dealt with using an artificial language designed to avoid the ambiguities and logical inadequacies of natural languages. (I) (A) Synonymous with mathematical logic.

symbolic machine In DPCX, a set of resources, including control and data storage blocks, allocated by DPCX for execution of user programs or system services.

symbolic name (1) In a programming language, a unique name used to represent an entity such as a field, file, data structure, or label. (2) In FORTRAN, an alphanumeric name for an entity.

symbolic parameter In job control language, a symbol preceded by an ampersand that represents a parameter or the value assigned to a parameter or subparameter in a cataloged or in-stream procedure. Values are assigned to symbolic parameters when the procedure in which they appear is called.

symbolic placeholder A symbol in a command list that is replaced by an actual value when the command list is executed.

symbolic pointer In IMS/VS, the concatenation of the keys in the sequence fields of all segments that must be retrieved to reach the desired segment, including the sequence field key of the desired segment.

symbol manipulation The processing of symbols without regard for their numerical values. (A)

symbol rank Synonym for digit place.

symbols See editing symbols.

symbol set In the AS/400 Business Graphics Utility, a supplied character set used for text strings on charts, such as headings, legend text, labels, and notes.

symbol string A string consisting solely of symbols. (I) (A)