

Microsoft



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Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition



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tions) of tuples (rows) from the first relation with tuples from the second. The number of rows in the resulting relation is the product of the number of rows in the two source relations. *Also called:* Cartesian product. *Compare* inner join. **2.** In mathematics, the result of multiplying two or more numbers. **3.** In the most general sense, an entity conceived and developed for the purpose of competing in a commercial market. Although computers are products, the term is more commonly applied to software, peripherals, and accessories in the computing arena.

production system *n.* In expert systems, an approach to problem solving based on an "IF this, THEN that" approach that uses a set of rules, a database of information, and a "rule interpreter" to match premises with facts and form a conclusion. Production systems are also known as rule-based systems or inference systems. *See also* expert system.

Professional Graphics Adapter *n.* A video adapter introduced by IBM, primarily for CAD applications. The Professional Graphics Adapter is capable of displaying 256 colors, with a horizontal resolution of 640 pixels and a vertical resolution of 480 pixels. *Acronym:* PGA.

Professional Graphics Display *n.* An analog display introduced by IBM, intended for use with their Professional Graphics Adapter. *See also* Professional Graphics Adapter.

profile¹ *n.* *See* user profile.

profile² *vb.* To analyze a program to determine how much time is spent in different parts of the program during execution.

profiler *n.* A diagnostic tool for analyzing the run-time behavior of programs.

called: application button.

program card *n.* *See* PC Card, ROM card.

program cartridge *n.* *See* ROM cartridge.

program comprehension tool *n.* A software engineering tool that facilitates the process of understanding the structure and/or functionality of computer applications. *Acronym:* PCT. *Also called:* software exploration tool.

program counter *n.* A register (small, high-speed memory circuit within a microprocessor) that contains the address (location) of the instruction to be executed next in the program sequence.

program creation *n.* The process of producing an executable file. Traditionally, program creation comprises three steps: (1) compiling the high-level source code into assembly language source code; (2) assembling the assembly language source code into machine-code object files; and (3) linking the machine-code object files with various data files, run-time files, and library files into an executable file. Some compilers go directly from high-level source to machine-code object, and some integrated development environments compress all three steps into a single command. *See also* assembler, compiler (definition 2), linker, program.

program encapsulation *n.* A method of dealing with programs with Year 2000 problems that entailed modifying the data with which a program worked. The input data is modified to reflect a parallel date in the past that the program can handle. When output is generated, that data is changed again, to reflect the correct date. The program itself remains unchanged.

program file *n.* A disk file that contains the executable portions of a computer program. Depending on its size and

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user name *n.* The name by which a person is known and addressed on a communications network. *See also* alias (definition 2).

user profile *n.* A computer-based record maintained about an authorized user of a multiuser computer system. A user profile is needed for security and other reasons; it can contain such information as the person's access restrictions, mailbox location, type of terminal, and so on. *See also* user account.

user state *n.* The least privileged of the modes in which a Motorola 680x0 microprocessor can operate. This is the mode in which application programs are run. *See also* 68000. *Compare* supervisor state.

USnail *n.* **1.** Slang for the United States Postal Service. USnail, a term used on the Internet, is a reference to how slow the postal service is in comparison to e-mail. **2.** Mail delivered by the United States Postal Service. *See also* snail mail.

/usr *n.* A directory in a computer system that contains subdirectories owned or maintained by individual users of the computer system. These subdirectories can contain files and additional subdirectories. Typically, /usr directories are used in UNIX systems and can be found on many FTP sites. *See also* FTP site.

USRT *n.* Acronym for **universal synchronous receiver-transmitter**. A module, usually composed of a single integrated circuit, that contains both the receiving and transmitting circuits required for synchronous serial communication. *Compare* UART.

UTC *n.* *See* Universal Time Coordinate.

utility program *n.* A program designed to perform maintenance work on the system or on system components (for example, a storage backup program, disk and file recovery program, or resource editor).

UTP *n.* Acronym for **unshielded twisted pair**. A cable containing one or more twisted pairs of wires without additional shielding. UTP is more flexible and takes up less space than shielded twisted-pair (STP) cable but has less bandwidth. *See the illustration. See also* twisted-pair cable. *Compare* STP.



UTP.

.uu *n.* The file extension for a binary file that has been translated into ASCII format using uuencode. *Also called:* .uud. *See also* ASCII, binary file, uuencode. *Compare* .uue.

UUCP *n.* Acronym for **UNIX-to-UNIX Copy**. A set of software programs that facilitates transmission of information between UNIX systems using serial data communication.