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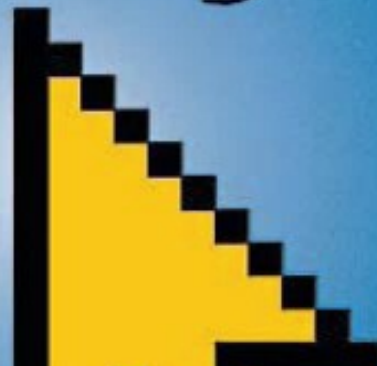
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ENTRIES

Microsoft

# Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition

- Fully updated with the latest technologies, terms, and acronyms



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. Double-density disks increased that capacity to 360. Double-density disks use modified frequency modulation encoding for storing data. *See also* floppy disk, floppy disk, modified frequency modulation encoding. *Compare* high-density disk.

**double-dereference** *vb.* To dereference a pointer that is pointed to by another pointer; in other words, to access the information pointed to by a handle. *See also* dereference, file (definition 1), pointer (definition 1).

**double leap year** *n.* The mistaken idea that the year 2000 would have two leap days—February 29 and February 30—instead of one. In actuality, there was a potential leap problem in 2000, but it was based on three rules for calculating leap years: (1) A year is a leap year if it is divisible by 4, *but* (2) not if it is divisible by 100, *unless* (3) also divisible by 400. Thus, 1900 was not a leap year, 2000 is, although systems based on incorrect algorithms may not recognize it as a leap year and so may have culties functioning correctly after February 28, 2000.

**double posting** *n.* In newsgroup discussions, the practice of replying to one's own posts. Because it may be seen as digital equivalent to talking to one's self, double posting is considered an undesirable practice.

**double-precision** *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a number stored in twice the amount (two words—typically 16 bytes) of computer memory that is required for storing a less precise (single-precision) number. Double-precision numbers are commonly handled by a computer using floating-point form. *See also* floating-point number. *Compare* single-precision.

**double-sided disk** *n.* A floppy disk that can hold data on both its top and bottom surfaces.

**double slash** *n.* *See* //.

**double-strike** *n.* On an impact printer, such as a daisy-wheel printer, the process of printing twice over a word, producing text that appears darker and heavier, or bolder, than it normally appears. On dot-matrix printers, double striking a character with a slight offset can be used to fill in the space between characters.

**doubly linked list** *n.* A series of nodes (items representing discrete segments of information) in which each node refers to both the next node and the preceding node. Because of these two-way references, a doubly linked list can be traversed both forward and backward, rather than in a forward direction only, as with a singly linked list.

**down** *adj.* Not functioning, in reference to computers, printers, communications lines on networks, and other such hardware.

**downflow** *n.* One of the four stages of the data warehousing process, during which stored information is delivered and archived. *See also* data warehouse<sup>2</sup>. *Compare* inflow, metaflow, upflow.

**downlink** *n.* The transmission of data from a communications satellite to an earth station.

**download** *vb.* 1. In communications, to transfer a copy of a file from a remote computer to the requesting computer by means of a modem or network. 2. To send a block of data, such as a PostScript file, to a dependent device, such as a PostScript printer. *Compare* upload.

**downloadable font** *n.* A set of characters stored on disk and sent (downloaded) to a printer's memory when needed for printing a document. Downloadable fonts are most commonly used with laser printers and other page printers, although many dot-matrix printers can accept some of them. *Also called:* soft font.

**Downloadable Sounds** *n.* A standard for synthesizing wave sounds from digital samples stored in software. The DLS level 1 and level 2 standards are published by the MIDI Manufacturers Association. *Acronym:* DLS.

**downsample** *n.* To decrease the number of audio samples or pixels, by applying an operation such as averaging. Popular internet music formats, such as MP3, use downsampling to reduce file size.

**downsizing** *n.* In computing, the practice of moving from larger computer systems, such as mainframes and minicomputers, to smaller systems in an organization, generally to save costs and to update to newer software. The

