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1234567890 DOC DOC 901987654321

Book p/n 0-07-219307-7 and CD p/n 0-07-219308-5
parts of
ISBN 0-07-219306-9

Publisher

Brandon A. Nordin

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This book was composed with Corel VENTURA™ Publisher.

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The "line interactive UPS" is a hybrid of the online and standby units. Like the standby, it does not constantly draw from the battery, but it switches to battery faster when required. In addition, the line interactive unit does not use the battery when low voltage is encountered. It uses extra power from the AC source to make up the difference in voltage.

A surge protector filters out surges and spikes, and a voltage regulator maintains uniform voltage during a brownout, but a UPS keeps a computer running when there is no electrical power. UPS systems typically provide surge suppression and may also provide voltage regulation.

UPS—Now More Than Ever In order to improve performance, computers are increasingly using write-back caches, which means that updated data intended for the disk is temporarily stored in RAM. If a power failure occurs, there is more of a chance that new data will be lost; thus, UPS systems are becoming important for all computers.

upstream See *downstream*.

uptime The time during which a system is working without failure. Contrast with *downtime*. See *availability*.

upward compatible Also called "forward compatible." Refers to hardware or software that is compatible with succeeding versions. Contrast with *downward compatible*.

URI (Uniform Resource Identifier) The addressing technology from which URLs are created. Technically, URLs such as HTTP:// and FTP:// are specific subsets of URIs.

URL (Uniform Resource Locator) The address that defines the route to a file on the Web or any other Internet facility. URLs are typed into the browser to access Web pages, and URLs are embedded within the pages themselves to provide the hypertext links to other pages.

The URL contains the protocol prefix, port number, domain name, subdirectory names and file name. Port addresses are generally defaults and are rarely specified. To access a home page on a Web site, only the protocol and domain name are required. For example,

`http://www.computerlanguage.com`

retrieves the home page at The Computer Language Company's Web site. The "http" is the Web protocol, and `www.computerlanguage.com` is the domain name.

If the page is stored in another directory, or if a page other than the home page is required, slashes are used to separate the names. For example, `http://www.computerlanguage.com/order.html` points to the order page.

If a required page is stored in a subdirectory, its name is separated by a slash. Like path names in DOS and Windows, subdirectories can be several levels deep. For example, the components of the following hypothetical URL are described here:

`http://www.abc.com/clothes/shirts/formal.html`

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <code>http:</code> | protocol |
| <code>//</code> | separators |
| <code>www.abc.com/</code> | domain name |
| <code>clothes/</code> | subdirectory name |
| <code>shirts/</code> | subdirectory name |
| <code>formal.html</code> | document name (Web page) |

Following is a list of the Internet protocols defined by URLs. Most browsers default to HTTP if a prefix is not typed in.

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Prefix | To Gain Access to... | Prefix | To Gain Access to... |
| <code>http:</code> | World Wide Web server | <code>file:</code> | file on local system |
| <code>ftp:</code> | FTP server (file transfer) | <code>ldap:</code> | directory request |
| <code>news:</code> | Usenet newsgroups | <code>telnet:</code> | applications on network server |
| <code>mailto:</code> | e-mail | <code>rlogin:</code> | applications on network server |
| <code>wais:</code> | Wide Area Information Server | <code>tn3270:</code> | applications on mainframe |
| <code>gopher:</code> | Gopher server | | |

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