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the particular host adapter used. *Acronym*: ASPI (AˈS-P-I, aˈspē). *See also* adapter, SCSI.

**.ae** \dot{A}-Eˈ\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in United Arab Emirates.

**.af** \dot{A}-Fˈ\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Afghanistan.

**AFDW** \AˈF-D-Wˈ\ *n.* *See* Active Framework for Data Warehousing.

**AFIPS** \āˈfips\ *n.* Acronym for **American Federation of Information Processing Societies**. An organization formed in 1961 for the advancement of computing and information-related concerns. The U.S. representative of the International Federation of Information Processing, AFIPS was replaced by the Federation on Computing in the United States (FOCUS) in 1990.

**AFK** \AˈF-Kˈ\ *adv.* Acronym for **away from keyboard**. A phrase occasionally seen in live chat services on the Internet and online information services as an indication that one is momentarily unable to answer. *See also* chat<sup>1</sup> (definition 1).

**.af.mil** \dot{A}-Fˈdot-milˈ, dot{A}-Fˈdot-M-I-Lˈ\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address belongs to the United States Air Force.

**AFS** \AˈF-Sˈ\ *n.* Acronym for **Andrew File System**. Carnegie-Mellon's distributed file system for facilitating accessibility to remote files in large networks.

**.ag** \dot{A}-Gˈ\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Antigua and Barbuda.

**agent** \āˈjənt\ *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. Spiders are a type of agent used on the Internet. *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 (SNMP), a

program that monitors network traffic. *See also* SNMP.

**.ai** \dot{A}-Iˈ\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Anguilla.

**AI** \A-Iˈ\ *n.* *See* artificial intelligence.

**.aiff** \dot{A}-I-F-Fˈ\ *n.* The file extension that identifies audio files in the sound format originally used on Apple and Silicon Graphics (SGI) computers.

**AIFF** \AˈI-F-Fˈ\ *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.

**AIX** \AˈI-Xˈ\ *n.* Acronym for **Advanced Interactive Executive**. A version of the UNIX system provided by IBM for its UNIX workstations and its PCs.

**.ak.us** \dot{A}-Kˈdot-U-Sˈ\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Alaska, United States.

**.al** \dot{A}-Lˈ\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Albania.

**alarm** \ə-lärmˈ\ *n.* A visual or auditory signal from a computer alerting the user to an error or hazardous situation.

**alert** \ə-lærtˈ\ *n.* **1.** On the Macintosh and in many graphical user interfaces, an audible or visual alarm that signals an error or represents a warning of some sort. *See also* alert box. **2.** In programming, an asynchronous notification sent by one thread to another. The alert interrupts the recipient thread at defined points in its execution and causes it to execute an asynchronous procedure call. *See also* asynchronous procedure call, thread (definition 1).

**alert box** \ə-lærtˈ boksˈ\ *n.* An on-screen box, in a graphical user interface, that is used to deliver a message or warning. An alert box from Windows. *See the illustration. Compare* dialog box.



*Alert box.*

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