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

ISBN 0-07-142178-5



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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

McGraw-Hill dictionary of computing and communications/McGraw-Hill.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-07-142178-5

1. Computer science—Dictionaries. 2. Telecommunication—Dictionaries.
3. Engineering—Dictionaries. I. The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

QA76.15D52634 2003

004'.03—dc21

2003051209

problems; it provides instructions for solving a specific problem when appropriate parameters are supplied. { |jen·rəl rü'tēn }

generate [COMPUT SCI] 1. To create a particular program by selecting parts of a general-program skeleton (or outline) and specializing these parts into a cohesive entity. 2. See gen. { 'jen·ə,rāt }

generate and test [COMPUT SCI] A computer problem-solving method in which a sequence of candidate solutions is generated, and each is tested to determine if it is an appropriate solution. { '|jen·ə,rāt ən 'test }

generated address [COMPUT SCI] An address calculated or determined by instructions contained in a computer program for subsequent use by that program. Also known as calculated address; synthetic address. { '|jen·ə,rād·əd ə'dres }

generating area See fetch. { 'jen·ə,rād·ɪŋ ,er·ē·ə }

generating routine See generator. { 'jen·ə,rād·ɪŋ rü,tēn }

generation [COMPUT SCI] 1. Any one of three groups used to historically classify computers according to their electronic hardware components, logical organization and software, or programming techniques; computers are thus known as first-, second-, or third-generation; a particular computer may possess characteristics of all generations simultaneously. 2. One of a family of data sets, related to one another in that each is a modification of the next most recent data set. { ,jen·ə'rā-shən }

generation data group [COMPUT SCI] A collection of files, each a modification of the previous one, with the newest numbered 0, the next -1, and so forth, and organized so that each time a new file is added the oldest is deleted. Abbreviated GDG. { ,jen·ə'rā-shan 'dad·ə,grüp }

generation number [COMPUT SCI] A number contained in the file label of a reel of magnetic tape that indicates the generation of the data set of the tape. { ,jen·ə'rā-shan ,nam·bar }

generative grammar [COMPUT SCI] A set of rules that describes the valid expressions in a formal language on the basis of a set of the parts of speech (formally called the set of metavariables or phrase names) and the alphabet or character set of the language. { 'jen·rad·iv 'gram·ər }

generator [COMPUT SCI] A program that produces specific programs as directed by input parameters. Also known as generating routine. [ELECTR] 1. A vacuum-tube oscillator or any other nonrotating device that generates an alternating voltage at a desired frequency when energized with direct-current power or low-frequency alternating-current power. 2. A circuit that generates a desired repetitive or nonrepetitive waveform, such as a pulse generator. { 'jen·ə,rād·ər }

generator lock [ELECTR] Circuitry that synchronizes two video signals so that they can be mixed. Abbreviated genlock. { 'jen·ə,rād·ər ,läk }

genetic algorithm [COMPUT SCI] A search procedure based on the mechanics of natural selection

and genetics. Also known as evolutionary strategy. { |jə,ned·ik 'al·gə,rith·əm }

genetic programming See evolutionary programming. { |jə,ned·ik 'prō,gram·ɪng }

genlock See generator lock. { 'gen,läk }

GEO See geosynchronous orbit. { |jē'ēō or 'jē·ō }

geomagnetic noise [COMMUN] Interference in radio communications arising from terrestrial magnetism. { |jē·ō·mag'ned·ik 'nōɪz }

geometrical distortion [COMPUT SCI] A discrepancy between the horizontal and vertical dimensions of the picture elements on an electronic display, causing, for example, circles to appear as ovals unless corrected for in software. { |jē·ə 'me·trə·kəl dī'stōr·shən }

geometric programming [SYS ENG] A nonlinear programming technique in which the relative contribution of each of the component costs is first determined; only then are the variables in the component costs determined. { |jē·ə 'me·trik 'prō,gram·ɪng }

geostationary satellite [AERO ENG] A satellite that follows a circular orbit in the plane of the earth's equator from west to east at such a speed as to remain fixed over a given place on the equator at an altitude of 22,280 miles (35,860 kilometers). { |jē·ō·stā·shə,ner·ē 'sad·ə,īt }

geosynchronous orbit [AERO ENG] A satellite orbit that has a period of one sidereal day (23 hours, 56 minutes, 4 seconds). Abbreviated GEO. { ,jē·ō·siñ·krə·nəs 'ór·bat }

geosynchronous satellite [AERO ENG] An earth satellite that makes one revolution in one sidereal day (23 hours, 56 minutes, 4 seconds), synchronous with the earth's rotation; the orbit can have arbitrary eccentricity and arbitrary inclination to the earth's equator. Also known as synchronous satellite. { ,jē·ō·siñ·krə·nəs 'sad·ə,īt }

get [COMPUT SCI] An instruction in a computer program to read data from a file. { get }

getmain [COMPUT SCI] An instruction used in some programming languages to request dynamic allocation of additional storage space to the program. { 'get,mān }

ghost [COMPUT SCI] To display a menu option in a dimmed, fuzzy typeface to indicate that this option is no longer available. [ELECTR] In radar, a contact generated where in fact no target exists, resulting from measurement ambiguity or attempts to resolve ambiguities with multiple observations in a multiple-target situation. { gōst }

ghost algebraic manipulation language [COMPUT SCI] An algebraic manipulation language which externally gives the appearance of manipulating quite general mathematical expressions, although internally it is functioning with canonically represented data, much like the simpler seminumerical languages. { |gōst al·jə'brik mə,nip·yə'lā·shən ,lañ·gwij }

ghost image [ELECTR] An undesired duplicate image offset from the desired image on a video display device. { 'gōst ,im·ij }