DICTIONARY OF IBM & COMPUTING TERMINOLOGY

A

AA (*ay-ay*) *n*. Administrative Assistant. An up-and-coming employee serving in a broadening assignment who supports a senior executive by arranging meetings and schedules, drafting and coordinating correspondence, assigning tasks, developing presentations and handling a variety of other administrative responsibilities. The AA's position is to be distinguished from that of the executive secretary, although the boundary line between the two roles is frequently blurred.

access control *n.* In computer security, the process of ensuring that the resources of a computer system can be accessed only by authorized users in authorized ways.

acknowledgment 1. *n.* The transmission, by a receiver, of acknowledge characters as an affirmative response to a sender. 2. *n*. An indication that an item sent was received.

action plan *n*. A plan. Project management is never satisfied by just a plan. The only acceptable plans are action plans. Also used to mean an *ad hoc* short-term scheme for resolving a specific and well defined problem.

active program *n.* Any program that is loaded and ready to be executed.

active window *n*. The window that can receive input from the keyboard. It is distinguishable by the unique color of its title bar and window border.

added value 1. *n*. The features or *bells and whistles* (see) that distinguish one product from another. 2. *n*. The additional peripherals, software, support, installation, etc., provided by a dealer or other third party.

administrivia *n*. Any kind of bureaucratic red tape or paperwork, IBM or not, that hinders the accomplishment of one's objectives or goals. Often, anything with a routing or *buck slip* (see) attached.

Advanced Peer-to-Peer Networking (APPN) *n*. An extension to SNA featuring (a) greater distributed network control that avoids critical hierarchical dependencies, thereby isolating the effects of single points of failure; (b) dynamic exchange of network topology information to foster ease of connection, reconfiguration, and adaptive route selection; (c) dynamic definition of network resources; and (d) automated resource registration and directory lookup. APPN extends the LU 6.2 peer orientation for end-user services to network control and supports multiple LU types, including LU 2, LU 3, and LU 6.2.

agent 1. *n*. In systems management, a user that, for a particular interaction, has assumed an agent role. 2. *n*. An entity that represents one or more managed objects by (a) emitting notifications regarding the objects and (b) handling requests from managers for management

operations to modify or query the objects. 3. *n*. A system that assumes an agent role. 4. *n*. Software that acts on behalf of a user as it performs tasks within an application program. An agent may run on both the client and the server.

aggregate *n*. In programming languages, a structured collection of data objects that form a data type.

aggressive 1. *adj*. Optimistic, vigorous, very active. In IBM, implies an element of risk: "We are moving on a very aggressive schedule." 2. *adj*. Overly ambitious. As used on a *foil* (see): "The plan was very aggressive," which actually means "We did not make target."

AIX (Advanced Interactive Executive) operating system. *n*. IBM's implementation of the UNIX operating system. The RS/6000 system, among others, runs the AIX operating system.

alarm *n*. A signal, either audible or visual, at a device such as a display station or printer that is used to notify the user of a condition requiring user's attention.

alert 1. *n*. A message sent to a management services focal point in a network to identify a problem or an impending problem. 2. *n*. In SNA management services (SNA/MS), a high priority event that warrants immediate attention.

alias *n*. In an internet, a name assigned to a server that makes the server independent of the name of its host machine. The alias must be defined in the domain name server.

all blue *adj*. Said of customers with all of their major computing equipment supplied by IBM (as in: "an all-blue account").

all hands meeting *n*. A meeting called by upper management, which everyone working on a given project is required to attend. These meetings are sometimes used to announce major reorganizations which can mean that the all-hands meeting in that case will be the last time those particular hands are assembled together.

all points addressable (APA) *n*. In computer graphics, pertaining to the ability to address and display or not display each picture element (pel) on a display surface.

allocate 1. *v*. To assign a resource, such as a disk or diskette file, to perform a task. 2. *n*. An LU 6.2 application programming interface (API) verb used to assign a session to a conversation for the conversation's use.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) *n.* An organization consisting of producers, consumers, and general interest groups, that establishes the procedures by which accredited organizations create and maintain voluntary industry standards in the United States.

analog *n.* Pertaining to data consisting of continuously variable physical quantities (in contrast with digital).

ancillary equipment See *auxiliary equipment*.

announce *n*. The moment at which a new product is formally revealed to customers. Historically, a product was known by a code name prior to announce, and information about it was strictly confidential. At announce, the hardware product was assigned a number instead of a name, with the result that not even its developers knew what it was anymore.

append *n*. A piece of text (ranging from one line to several hundred) that is appended to a file on a conference disk. The text may be discussions, bug reports, suggestions, questions or any other topic of conversation. The value of an append is very often inversely proportional to its length.

appendage *n*. An application program routine provided to assist in handling a specific occurrence.

applet *n*. An application program, written in the Java programming language, that can be retrieved from a Web server and executed by a Web browser. A reference to an applet appears in the markup for a Web page, in the same way that a reference to a graphics file appears; a browser retrieves an applet in the same way that it retrieves a graphics file. For security reasons, an applet's access rights are limited in two ways: the applet cannot access the file system of the client upon which it is executing, and the applet's communication across the network is limited to the server from which it was downloaded.

application *n*. A collection of software components used to perform specific types of user-oriented work on a computer.

application desktop toolbar *n*. An element of the Microsoft Windows interface that can be provided by a Windows application. This toolbar operates similarly to the Windows 95 taskbar and provides access to controls for specific functions related to the respective application.

application program 1. *n* A program written for or by a user that applies to the user's work, such as a program that does inventory control or payroll. 2. *n*. A program used to connect and communicate with stations in a network, enabling users to perform application-oriented activities.

application programming interface (API) 1. *n*. A software interface that enables applications to communicate with each other. An API is the set of programming language constructs or statements that can be coded in an application program to obtain the specific functions and services provided by an underlying operating system or service program. 2. *n*. In VTAM, the language structure used in control blocks so that application programs can reference them and be identified to VTAM.

architect *v*. To design how something should work.

archive *v*. To save data (usually electronic) in long-term storage (such as magnetic tape or optical disk). This differs from the backup function in that archive is intended to keep the data for a long time.

artificial intelligence *n*. The opposite of natural silliness.

ASCII (American National Standard Code for Information Interchange) *n*. The standard code, using a coded character set consisting of 7-bit coded characters (8 bits including parity check), that is used for information interchange among data processing systems, data communication systems, and associated equipment. The ASCII set consists of control characters and graphic characters.

asymmetric *adj*. In computer security, pertaining to the use of different keys for encryption and decryption.

asynchronous (ASYNC) 1. *adj*. Pertaining to two or more processes that do not depend upon the occurrence of specific events such as common timing signals. 2. *adj.* Without regular time relationship; unexpected or unpredictable with respect to the execution of program instructions.

asynchronous communication *n*. A method of communication supported by the operating system that allows an exchange of data with a remote device, using either a start-stop line or an X.25 line. Asynchronous communication includes the file transfer support and the interactive terminal facility support.

asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) *n*. A transfer mode in which the information is organized into cells; it is asynchronous in the sense that the recurrence of cells containing information from an individual user is not necessarily periodic. ATM is specified in international standards such as ATM Forum UNI 3.1.

attribute 1. *n.* A characteristic that identifies and describes a managed object. The characteristic can be determined, and possibly changed, through operations on the managed object. 2. *n*. Information within a managed object that is visible at the object boundary. An attribute has a type, which indicates the range of information given by the attribute, and a value, which is within that range.

authentication 1. *n*. In computer security, verification of the identity of a user or the user's eligibility to access an object. 2. *n*. In computer security, verification that a message has not been altered or corrupted. 3. *n*. In computer security, a process used to verify the user of an information system or protected resources.

authorization 1. *n*. In computer security, the right granted to a user to communicate with or make use of a computer system. 2. *n*. An access right. 3. *n*. The process of granting a user either complete or restricted access to an object, resource, or function.

authorized program analysis report (APAR) *n*. A report of a problem caused by a suspected defect in a current unaltered release of a program.

AUTOEXEC.BAT file *n*. In the DOS operating system, a batch file that resides in the root directory of the boot drive and contains commands that DOS executes whenever a DOS window is created.

automatic calling unit (ACU) *n.* A dialing device that permits a computer to automatically dial calls over a network.

automatic logoff *n*. The process that a server uses to disconnect a connection when no data has been transmitted for a given period of time.

automatic logon 1. *n*. A process by which VTAM automatically creates a session-initiation request to establish a session between two logical units (LUs). The session is between a designated primary logical unit (PLU) and a secondary logical unit (SLU) that is neither queued for nor in session with another PLU. 2. *n*. In VM, a process by which a virtual machine is initiated by other than the user of that virtual machine; for example, the primary VM operator's virtual machine is activated automatically during VM initialization.

auxiliary equipment *n*. Equipment not under direct control of the processing unit.

B

backbone 1. *n*. A set of nodes and their interconnecting links that form a central, high-speed network interconnecting other, typically lower-speed, networks or client nodes. 2. *n*. In a local area network multiple-bridge ring configuration, a high-speed link to which the rings are connected by means of bridges or routers. A backbone may be configured as a bus or as a ring. 3. *n*. In a wide area network, a high-speed link to which nodes or data switching exchanges (DSEs) are connected.

backbone network *n*. A central network to which smaller networks, normally of lower speed, connect. The backbone network usually has a much higher capacity than the networks it helps interconnect or is a wide-area network (WAN) such as a public packet-switched datagram network**.**

back-burner *v*. To move something to a lower priority in the hope that it will go away or be solved by someone else.

background picture *n*. The diagram or image that is displayed behind other symbols to show their context or relations.

background process 1. *n*. A process that does not require operator intervention but can be run by the computer while the workstation is used to do other work. 2. *n*. In the AIX operating system, a mode of program execution in which the shell does not wait for program completion before prompting the user for another command.

background task *n*. A task that is running even though the user is not currently interacting with it.

back-level *n.* Pertaining to a prior release of an IBM product, which may not support certain functions in a more current release.

ballpark *v*. To make a rough estimate. When the term is used before the noun "number," it absolves the speaker of any responsibility for incorrect data.

bandwidth 1. *n*. The difference, expressed in hertz, between the highest and the lowest frequencies of a range of frequencies. 2. *n*. In asynchronous transfer mode (ATM), the capacity of a virtual channel, expressed in terms of peak cell rate (PCR), sustainable cell rate (SCR), and maximum burst size (MBS). 3. *n*. A measure of the capacity of a communication transport medium (such as a TV cable) to convey data.

Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) *n.* Code that controls basic hardware operations, such as interactions with diskette drives, hard disk drives, and the keyboard.

batch 1. *n*. An accumulation of data to be processed. 2. *n*. A group of records or data processing jobs brought together for processing or transmission. 3. *n*. Pertaining to activity involving little or no user action.

batch file *n*. A file containing data that is to be processed unattended.

baud *n*. In asynchronous transmission, the unit of modulation rate corresponding to one unit interval per second; that is, if the duration of the unit interval is 20 milliseconds, the modulation rate is 50 baud.

bean *n*. A reusable Java component that is built using the JavaBeans technology.

bells and whistles *n*. Frills added to a program, product or presentation to make it more exciting without necessarily making it much better.

belly up *adj*. Broken, not functioning.

best-of-breed *adj*. Comparable to recently announced competitive products. This term is used by planners and enthusiasts, when a product is first proposed, to describe the relationship of a product to its competition.

beta test *v.* To test a prerelease version of a piece of software by making it available to selected customers and users.

big iron *n.* large computers.

bit *n.* Either of the digits 0 or 1 when used in the binary numeration system.

bitmap 1. *n*. A representation of an image by an array of bits. 2. *n*. A pixmap with a depth of one bit plane.

block *n.* A string of data elements recorded or transmitted as a unit. The elements may be characters, words, or physical records.

blue letter *n*. The document once distributed by the IBM Data Processing Division to announce a new product or education course. So named because it was printed on blue paper, the blue letter contained the generalized product description and specifications that were used to make the IBM marketing representatives expert on the new offering. The blue letters were later printed on ivory colored paper and it then became fashionable to call the documents "ivory letters."

blue money *n.* Internal budget dollars, used to purchase an item from another IBM organization. This is used mainly by product planners. Its corollary is real money or green money.

blue sky *adj*. Not inhibited by practicality, possibility, politics or popular trends.

blue suiter *n.* Used in times past to describe someone from a more formally dressed area of the IBM culture. For example, a blue suiter would be: (a) an IBM marketing representative in the field force (when described by those at headquarters); (b) IBMers at headquarters (when described by those in a development laboratory); or (c) IBMers not at IBM Research (when described by used by those at Research).

Boca *n.* Short for Boca Raton, Florida, the birthplace of the IBM PC (and a favorite venue for business meetings during the first quarter of the year). It should be noted that most of the IBM buildings in that area were, in fact, in Delray Beach, not Boca Raton.

bogey *n*. A quantitative target, especially a difficult or unpleasant one.

boil the ocean *v.* To attempt something too ambitious. Some managers who have a propensity for boiling the ocean are ideal candidates for serving on *task forces* (see).

boiler plate 1. *n*. Content-free portions of a presentation included to capture the attention and otherwise distract the listener from any real issues. 2. *n*. The standard language used in a press release to describe the company issuing the release.

Boolean 1. *n.* Pertaining to the processes used in the algebra formulated by George Boole. 2. *n*. A value of 0 or 1 represented internally in binary notation.

Boolean operation 1. *n*. Any operation in which each of the operands and the result take one of two values. 2. *n*. An operation that follows the rules of Boolean algebra.

boot *v.* To prepare a computer system for operation by loading an operating system.

bottleneck *n.* A hardware or software component that can limit the performance of a device, a subsystem (such as an adapter), or a network. For example, if an adapter has hardware that can forward 14,000 packets per second, and software that can process 4,000 packets per second, the packet throughput is limited to 4, 000 packets per second; and the software is the bottleneck.

box *n*. A hardware product, usually a computer (as in: "They're selling a lot of boxes now.").

bps *n*. Bits per second.

bridge 1. *n*. A functional unit that interconnects two local area networks that use the same logical link control protocol but may use different medium access control protocols. 2. *n*. A functional unit that interconnects multiple LANs (locally or remotely) that use the same logical link control protocol but that can use different medium access control protocols. A bridge forwards a frame to another bridge based on the medium access control (MAC) address. 3. *n.* In the connection of local loops, channels, or rings, the equipment and techniques used to match circuits and to facilitate accurate data transmission.

broadband 1. *n*. A frequency band broad enough to be divided into several narrower bands, each of which can be used for different purposes or be made available to different users. 2. *n*. A frequency band divisible into several narrower bands so that different kinds of transmission (such as voice, video, and data) can occur at the same time. 3. *n*. Transmission media and techniques that use a broad frequency range, divided into sub-bands of narrower frequency, so that different kinds of transmission can occur at the same time.

broadcast 1. *n*. Transmission of the same data to all destinations. 2. *n*. Simultaneous transmission of data to more than one destination.

browse 1. *v*. To look at records in a file. 2. *v*. In the NetView Graphic Monitor Facility, to open a view that cannot receive status changes from Tivoli NetView for OS/390.

browser See *Web browser*.

buck slip *n*. 1. A routing slip listing the names of members of a department. Used to make the loss of correspondence more organized. 2. *n*. A routing slip attached to a document to rid it from one's desk and lay it onto another's, usually adorned with the words "Please handle."

buffer 1. *n*. A routine or storage used to compensate for a difference in rate of flow of data, or time of occurrence of events, when transferring data from one device to another. 2. *v*. To allocate and schedule the use of buffers. 3. *n*. A portion of storage used to hold input or output data temporarily.

bug *n*. A very broad term denoting a defect in either hardware or software. Personality bugs are denoted with different language.

build-to-order *adj*. Of a hardware product: manufactured or to be manufactured, following customer orders.

build-to-plan *adj*. Of a hardware product: manufactured or to be manufactured, independently of customer orders.

bullet 1. *n*. One of a list of items to be emphasized, usually marked by a graphical device alongside it on a *foil* (see). 2. *n*. A short, factual statement.

bulletin board 1. *n* A place in IBM facilities in which printed announcements of key events, activities and developments were posted for employee information; largely superseded by various online systems. 2. *n*. In the Tivoli environment, the primary mechanism by which the Tivoli Management Framework and Tivoli applications communicate with Tivoli administrators. The bulletin board is represented as an icon on the Tivoli desktop through which the administrators can access notices. Tivoli applications use the bulletin board as an audit trail for important operations that the administrators perform.

bullets *v*. To convert a proposal, argument or result into a list of items for a *foil* (which may or may not be preceded by bullets).

burn *v*. To make a photocopy.

burst *n*. In data communication, a sequence of data counted as one unit in accordance with some specific criterion or measure.

bus 1. *n*. A facility for transferring data between several devices located between two end points, only one device being able to transmit at a given moment. 2. *n*. A computer configuration in which processors are interconnected in series.

button 1. *n*. A mechanism on a pointing device, such as a mouse, used to request or initiate an action or a process. 2. *n*. A graphical device that identifies a choice. 3. *n*. A graphical mechanism that, when selected, performs a visible action. For example, when a user clicks on a list button, a list of choices appears.

byte 1. *n*. A string that consists of a number of bits, treated as a unit, and representing a character. 2. *n*. A binary character operated upon as a unit and usually shorter than a computer word. 3. *n*. A group of 8 adjacent binary digits that represent one EBCDIC character.

C

C language *n*. A language used to develop software applications in compact, efficient code that can be run on different types of computers with minimal change.

cache 1. *n*. A special-purpose buffer storage, smaller and faster than main storage, used to hold a copy of instructions and data obtained from main storage and likely to be needed next by the processor. 2. *n*. A buffer storage that contains frequently accessed instructions and data; it is used to reduce access time. 3. *n*. An optional part of the directory database in network nodes where frequently used directory information may be stored to speed directory searches. 4. *v*. To place, hide, or store in a cache.

CADAM *n.* Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing. The use of computers in the design and manufacture of products such as cars, airplanes, ships, and computers.

call 1. *v*. The action of bringing a computer program, a routine, or a subroutine into effect, usually by specifying the entry conditions and jumping to an entry point. 2. *v*. In data communication, the actions necessary to make a connection between two stations on a switched line. 3. *n*. In communications, a conversation between two users. 4. *v*. To transfer control to a procedure, program, routine, or subroutine. 5. *v*. To attempt to contact a user, regardless of whether the attempt is successful.

canonical *adj*. In computer science, pertaining to an expression that conforms to a specific set of rules.

card 1. *n*. An electronic circuit board that is plugged into a slot in a system unit. 2. *n*. A plug-in circuit assembly.

cardholder *n***.** In e-commerce, a person who has a valid payment card account and uses software that supports e-commerce.

card-holding manager *n*. A manager who directly manages employees (rather than a manager, such as a program manager, who does not supervise people).

carrier 1. *n*. An electric or electromagnetic wave or pulse train that may be varied by a signal bearing information to be transmitted over a communication system. 2. *n*. In data communication, a continuous frequency that can be modulated or impressed with an information carrying signal.

cascading 1. *v*. The connecting of network controllers to each other in a succession of levels, to concentrate many more lines than a single level permits. 2. *adj*. In high-availability cluster multiprocessing (HACMP), pertaining to a cluster configuration in which the cluster node with the highest priority for a particular resource acquires the resource if the primary node fails but relinquishes the resource to the primary node upon reintegration of the primary node into the cluster. 3. *v*. To distribute information rapidly downward, using a hierarchy of presentations or announcements by senior managers.

case-sensitive *adj*. Pertaining to the ability to distinguish between uppercase and lowercase letters.

cassette *n.* In e-commerce, a software component consisting of a collection of Java classes and interfaces that can be easily installed into other software components involved in e-commerce to extend the function of these components.

cast in concrete *adj.* Immutable.

catalog 1. *n*. A directory of files and libraries, with reference to their locations. A catalog may contain other information such as the types of devices in which the files are stored, passwords, and blocking factors. 2. *v*. To enter information about a file or a library into a catalog.

category link *n*. In computer user interfaces, a hypertext link that leads to other hypertext links. With a category link, the user must follow at least two hypertext links (possibly more) before locating needed information.

CBX See *computerized branch exchange*.

CD-ROM *n.* High-capacity read-only memory in the form of an optically read compact disc.

central directory *n*. A repository for storing resource location information centrally registered by network nodes or cached as the result of network searches.

central processing unit (CPU) *n*. The part of a computer that includes the circuits that control the interpretation and execution of instructions. A CPU is the circuitry and storage that executes instructions. Traditionally, the complete processing unit was often regarded as the CPU, whereas today the CPU is often a microchip. In either case, the centrality of a processor or processing unit depends on the configuration of the system or network in which it is used.

CERN *n.* Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire (European Laboratory for Particle Physics). Located in Geneva, Switzerland, CERN initiated the World Wide Web and was the first organization to create a Web server. The CERN Web server is the basis for many commercially available servers.

certificate *n.* In e-commerce, a digital document that binds a public key to the identity of the certificate owner, thereby enabling the certificate owner to be authenticated. A certificate is issued by a certificate authority.

certificate authority *n*. In e-commerce, an organization that issues certificates. The CA authenticates the certificate owner's identity and the services that the owner is authorized to use, issues new certificates, renews existing certificates, and revokes certificates belonging to users who are no longer authorized to use them.

challenge *n.* Something difficult or a big problem.

change management *n*. The process of planning (for example, scheduling) and controlling (for example, distributing, installing, and tracking) software changes over a network. This is sometimes known as "software management."

channel 1. *n*. A path along which signals can be sent, for example, data channel, output channel. 2. *n*. In data communication, a means of one-way transmission. 3. *n*. A functional unit, controlled by the processor, that handles the transfer of data between processor storage and local peripheral equipment.

charm school *n*. New Manager School.

check box *n*. A square box with associated text that represents a choice. When a user selects the choice, the check box is filled to indicate that the choice is selected. The user can clear the check box by selecting the choice again, thereby deselecting the choice.

checkpoint 1. *n*. Information about the status of a program's execution or the status of a data transfer that is recorded to enable the program or the data transfer to be restarted if it is ever interrupted. 2. *n*. The time at which such information is recorded. 3. *v*. To record such information.

CICS See *Customer Information Control System*.

circuit 1. *n*. One or more conductors through which an electric current can flow. 2. *n*. A logic device.

circular log *n*. A storage area for information that replaces the oldest information stored with the most recent.

class 1. *n*. In object-oriented design or programming, a model or template that can be instantiated to create objects with a common definition and therefore, common properties, operations, and behavior. An object is an instance of a class. 2. *adj*. In the AIX operating system, pertaining to the I/O characteristics of a device. System devices are classified as block or character devices.

clear data *n*. Data that is not enciphered.

click *v*. To press and release a button on a pointing device without moving the pointer off the object or choice.

client *n*. A computer system or process that requests a service of another computer system or process that is typically referred to as a server. Multiple clients may share access to a common server.

client/server *n*. In communications, the model of interaction in distributed data processing in which a program at one site sends a request to a program at another site and awaits a response. The requesting program is called a client; the answering program is called a server.
clipboard *n*. An area of storage provided by the system to hold data temporarily.

clipping *v.* In computer graphics, removing those parts of display elements that lie outside of a given boundary.

clocking 1. *v*. In binary synchronous communication, the use of clock pulses to control synchronization of data and control characters. 2. *v*. A method of controlling the number of data bits sent on a telecommunication line in a given time.

close *n*. A choice that removes a window and all of the windows associated with it from the workplace. For example, if a user is performing a task in a window and a message appears, or the user asks for help, both the message and the help windows disappear when the user closes the original window.

close of business *n.* End of the working day.

closed system *n*. A system whose characteristics comply with proprietary standards and that therefore cannot readily be connected to other systems.

closedown *n*. The deactivation of a device, program, or system.

cluster 1. *n*. A station that consists of a control unit (a cluster controller) and the terminals attached to it. 2. *n*. A group of APPN nodes that have the same network ID and the same topology database. A cluster is a subset of a NETID subnetwork. 3. *n*. In high-availability cluster multiprocessing (HACMP), a set of independent systems (called nodes) that are organized into a network for the purpose of sharing resources and communicating with each other.

cluster controller *n*. A device that can control the input/output operations of more than one device connected to it. A cluster controller may be controlled by a program stored and executed in the unit; for example, the IBM 3601 Finance Communication Controller. Or, it may be entirely controlled by hardware; for example, the IBM 3272 Control Unit.

cluster node *n*. In high-availability cluster multiprocessing (HACMP), an RS/6000 system that participates in a cluster.

coaxial cable *n*. A cable consisting of one conductor, usually a small copper tube or wire, within and insulated from another conductor of larger diameter, usually copper tubing or copper braid.

code *n.* A set of instructions for a computer.

code name *n*. The name used to designate a product or future product to obscure the purpose of the project from casual observers. The code name of an especially famous project can move into the vernacular, e.g., Winchester and Peanut.

cold start 1. *n*. The start of a database management system without preprocessing before-images or after-images. 2. *n*. A system start, using an initial program load procedure.

collaborative management *n.* A cooperative relationship between Internet commerce partners and Internet service providers (ISPs) to ensure the successful completion of business transactions.

color palette *n*. A set of colors that can be displayed on the screen at one time. This can be a standard set used for all images or a set that can be customized for each image.

comb *n.* In a magnetic disk unit, an assembly of access arms that moves as a unit.

comeback meeting *n.* A meeting called by an executive (or the *AA*) to follow-up on actions requested at an earlier meeting.

command 1. *n*. A request from a terminal for the performance of an operation or the execution of a particular program. 2. *n*. In SNA, any field set in the transmission header (TH), request header (RH), and sometimes portions of a request unit (RU), that initiates an action or that begins a protocol; for example: (a) Bind Session (session-control request unit), a command that activates an LU-LU session, (b) the change-direction indicator in the RH of the last RU of a chain, (c) the virtual route reset window indicator in an FID4 transmission header. 3. *n*. In Tivoli NetView for OS/390, a sequence of characters that is submitted to cause an action. A command contains a verb and an object.

command line 1. *n*. On a display screen, a display line usually at the bottom of the screen, in which only commands can be entered. 2. *n*. In Common User Access (CUA) architecture, obsolete term for command area.

command prompt *n*. A displayed character or string of characters that indicates that a user may enter a command to be processed.

commerce service provider (CSP) *n*. An Internet service provider that hosts merchant shopping sites and processes payments for the merchants.

Common Gateway Interface (CGI) *n*. A standard for the exchange of information between a Web server and computer programs that are external to it. The external programs can be written in any programming language that is supported by the operating system on which the Web server is running.

communication adapter 1. *n*. A circuit card with associated software that enables a processor, controller, or other device to be connected to a network. 2. *n.* A mechanism that enables communication facilities to be attached to host processors.

communication common carrier *n.* In the U.S. and Canada, a public data transmission service that provides the general public with transmission service facilities; for example, a telephone or telegraph company.

communication controller *n*. A type of communication control unit whose operations are controlled by one or more programs stored and executed in the unit. It manages the details of line control and the routing of data through a network.

communication control unit *n*. A communication device that controls transmission of data over lines in a network.

communication line *n*. Obsolete term for telecommunication line.

communication port 1. *n*. An access point for data entry or exit to or from a communication device such as a terminal. 2. *n*. On a personal computer, a serial port to which a stand-alone modem can be attached.

compact disc (CD) 1. *n*. A disc, usually 4.75 inches in diameter, from which data is read optically by means of a laser. 2. *n*. A disc with information stored in the form of pits along a spiral track. The information is decoded by a compact-disc player and interpreted as digital audio data, which most computers can process.

compile 1. *v*. To translate all or part of a program expressed in a high-level language into a computer program expressed in an intermediate language, an assembly language, or a machine language. 2. *v*. To prepare a machine language program from a computer program written in another programming language by making use of the overall logic structure of the program, or generating more than one computer instruction for each symbolic statement, or both, as well as performing the function of an assembler. 3. *v*. To translate a source program into an executable program (an object program). 4. *v*. To translate a program written in a high-level programming language into a machine language program.

compile time *n*. The time period during which a computer program is being compiled into an executable program.

compiler 1. *n*. A program that translates a source program into an executable program (an object program). 2. *n*. A program that decodes instructions written as pseudo codes and produces a machine language program to be executed at a later time.

component 1. *n*. Hardware or software that is part of a functional unit. 2. *n.* A part of a structured type or value, such as an array element or a record field.

compressed video *n.* Video resulting from the process of digitally encoding and decoding a video image or segment using a variety of computer techniques to reduce the amount of data required to represent the content accurately.

compression 1. *n*. The process of eliminating gaps, empty fields, redundancies, and unnecessary data to shorten the length of records or blocks. 2. *n*. Any encoding to reduce the number of bits used to represent a given message or record.

computer *n*. A functional unit that can perform substantial computations, including numerous arithmetic operations and logic operations without human intervention during a run. In information processing, the term computer usually describes a digital computer. A computer may consist of a stand-alone unit or may consist of several interconnected units.

computerized branch exchange (CBX) *n.* An exchange in which a central node acts as a high-speed switch to establish direct connections between pairs of attached nodes.

Computer Science Network (CSNET) *n*. A large computer network, mostly in the United States but with international connections. CSNET sites include universities, research labs, and some commercial companies. CSNET has merged with the Because It's Time Network (BITNET) to form the Consortium for Research and Education Network (CREN).

computer word *n.* A word suitable for processing by a given computer, usually treated as a unit.

concentrator 1. *n*. In data transmission, a functional unit that permits a common transmission medium to serve more data sources than there are channels currently available within the transmission medium. 2. *n*. Any device that combines incoming messages into a single message (concentration) or extracts individual messages from the data sent in a single transmission sequence (deconcentration).

concern *n.* formal indication from one group or employee to another that the first is worried about some action by the other (as in: "We have a concern that the schedule may be too aggressive.").

Concur *v*. To give an irrevocable formal agreement.

concurrent *adj*. In high-availability cluster multiprocessing (HACMP), pertaining to a cluster configuration in which all cluster nodes use a resource simultaneously. A cluster node can fail and reintegrate into the cluster without affecting other cluster nodes or the resource.

concurrent server *n*. A server that can handle many connections at the same time. It can accept new connection requests while still processing the transactions started by previous requests.

CONFIG.SYS file *n*. In the OS/2 operating system, a file used by the base operating system that describes the devices, system parameters, and resource options of a workstation.

configuration 1. *n*. The manner in which the hardware and software of an information processing system are organized and interconnected. 2. *n*. The devices and programs that make up a system, subsystem, or network.

configuration file *n*. A file that specifies the characteristics of a system device or network.

configure *v*. To describe to a system the devices, optional features, and programs installed on the system.

congestion See *network congestion*.

connectivity 1. *n*. The capability of a system or device to be attached to other systems or devices without modification. 2. *n.* The capability to attach a variety of functional units without modifying them.

Consortium for Research and Education Network (CREN) *n*. A large computer network formed from the merging of the Because It's Time Network (BITNET) and the Computer Science Network (CSNET).

content link *n*. In computer user interfaces, a hypertext link that leads directly to pertinent information. A content link allows the user to find needed information immediately.

contextual help *n*. Help information about the specific choice or object that the cursor is on. The help is contextual because it provides information about the item in its current context.

control program 1. *n*. A computer program designed to schedule and to supervise the execution of programs of a computer system. 2. *n*. The part of the AIX operating system that determines the order in which basic functions should be performed. 3. *n*. In VM/ESA, a component that manages the resources of a single computer so multiple computing systems appear to exist. Each of these apparent systems, or virtual machines, is the functional equivalent of an IBM System/370, 370-XA, or ESA computer.

controller *n*. A device that coordinates and controls the operation of one or more input/output devices, such as workstations, and synchronizes the operation of such devices with the operation of the system as a whole.

conversational monitor system (CMS) *n*. A virtual machine operating system that provides general interactive time sharing, problem solving, and program development capabilities, and operates only under control of the VM control program.

cook book 1. *n*. Used as an affectionate term for some master reference document. 2. *adj.* Describing in great detail a procedure for a person to follow, down to what commands to type and when.

cookie *n.* Information that a Web server stores on a user's computer when the user browses a particular Web site. This information helps the Web server track such things as user preferences and data that the user may submit while browsing the site. For example, a cookie may include information about the purchases that the user makes (if the Web site is a shopping site). The use of cookies enables a Web site to become more interactive with its users, especially on future visits.

coordinated universal time (UTC) *n.* The time scale, based on the Système International (SI) second, as defined and recommended by the Comité Consultatif International de la Radio (CCIR) and maintained (using an atomic clock) by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM). The Système International is based on three fundamental units of measure (the meter, the kilogram, and the second) and is sometimes called the "MKS system" because of these units. For most practical purposes, UTC is equivalent to the mean solar time at the prime meridian (0 degrees longitude) of Greenwich, England, which is known as Greenwich mean time. UTC is sometimes called Z time or Zulu time.

copy *n.* A choice that places a copy of a selected object onto the clipboard.

Corrective Service Diskette *n*. A diskette provided by IBM to registered service coordinators for resolving user-identified problems with previously installed software. This diskette includes program updates designed to resolve problems.

coupling facility *n*. In MVS, the hardware element that provides high-speed caching, list processing, and locking functions in a sysplex.

CPU See *central processing unit*.

crash *v*. To halt in an unrecoverable manner, when not expected.

crisp up 1. *v.* To add meaningful content or to make more impressive or flashy (as in: "We'll have to crisp up this presentation before the Director sees it.") 2. *v*. To remove meaningful content, to reduce it to the essential (as in: "We'll have to crisp up this presentation before the Director sees it.")

cryptographic algorithm *n*. A set of rules that specify the mathematical steps required to encipher and decipher data.

cryptographic key *n*. A parameter that determines cryptographic transformations between plaintext and ciphertext.

cryptographic session *n*. In SNA products, an LU-LU session in which a function management data (FMD) request may be enciphered before it is transmitted and deciphered after it is received.

cryptography *n*. The transformation of data to conceal its contents and to prevent one person from forging or modifying another person's messages.

cursor 1. *n*. A movable, visible mark used to indicate a position of interest on a display surface. 2. *n*. A visible indication of the position where user interaction with the keyboard will appear. The keyboard cursors are the selection cursor and the text cursor.

Customer Information Control System (CICS) *n.* An IBM licensed program that provides online transaction processing services and management for critical business applications. CICS runs on many IBM and non-IBM platforms (from the desktop to the mainframe) and is used in various types of networks that range in size from a few terminals to many thousands of terminals. The CICS application programming interface (API) enables programmers to port applications among the hardware and software platforms on which CICS is available. Each product in the CICS family can interface with the other products in the CICS family, thus enabling interproduct communication.

cut *n*. A choice that moves a selected object and places it onto the clipboard. The space it occupied is usually filled by the remaining object or objects in the window.

cylinder 1. *n*. In an assembly of magnetic disks, the set of all tracks that can be accessed by all the magnetic heads of a comb in a given position. 2. *n*. The tracks of a disk storage device that can be accessed without repositioning the access mechanism.

D

DASD See *direct access storage device*.

data 1. *n* A re-interpretable representation of information in a formalized manner suitable for communication, interpretation, or processing. Operations can be performed upon data by humans or by automatic means. 2. *n*. Any representations such as characters or analog quantities to which meaning is or might be assigned. 3. *n*. A representation of facts or instructions in a form suitable for communication, interpretation, or processing by human or automatic means. Data includes constants, variables, arrays, and character strings.

data channel See *input/output channel*.

data check 1. *n*. An operation used to verify data quality or data integrity. 2. *n*. A synchronous or asynchronous indication of a condition caused by invalid data or incorrect positioning of data. Some data checks can be suppressed.

data communication 1. *n*. Transfer of data among functional units by means of data transmission according to a protocol. 2. *n*. The transmission, reception, and validation of data.

data compression See *compression*.

data dictionary *n*. A centralized repository of information about data such as meaning, relationships to other data, origin, usage, and format. It assists management, database administrators, system analysts, and application programmers in planning, controlling, and evaluating the collection, storage, and use of data.

data encrypting key *n*. A key used to encipher, decipher, or authenticate data.

Data Encryption Standard (DES) *n*. In computer security, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Data Encryption Standard, adopted by the U.S. government as Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) Publication 46, which allows only hardware implementations of the data encryption algorithm.

data modeling *n*. A structured set of techniques for defining and recording business information requirements. It is a depiction of the user's view of the data needs of the organization in a consistent and rigorous fashion. The data model eventually serves as the basis for translation to computer system databases.

data network *n*. An arrangement of data circuits and switching facilities for establishing connections between data terminal equipment.

data packet *n.* In X.25 communications, a packet used for the transmission of user data on a virtual circuit at the DTE/DCE interface.

data set 1. See *file*. 2. *n*. Obsolete term for modem.

data store *n*. A place (such as a database system, file, or directory) where data is stored.

data stream 1. *n*. All information (data and control commands) sent over a data link usually in a single read or write operation. 2. *n*. A continuous stream of data elements being transmitted, or intended for transmission, in character or binary-digit form, using a defined format.

data transfer rate *n*. The average number of bits, characters, or blocks per unit time passing between corresponding equipment in a data transmission system. (Notes: 1. The rate is expressed in bits, characters, or blocks per second, minute, or hour. 2. Corresponding equipment should be indicated; for example, modems, intermediate equipment, or source and sink.)

database 1. *n*. A collection of data with a given structure for accepting, storing, and providing, on demand, data for multiple users. 2. *n*. A collection of interrelated data organized according to a database schema to serve one or more applications. 3. *n*. A collection of data fundamental to a system. 4. *n*. A collection of data fundamental to an enterprise.

database administrator (DBA) *n*. A person who is responsible for a database system, particularly for defining the rules by which data is stored and accessed. Usually, the database administrator is also responsible for database integrity, security, performance, and recovery.

database record *n*. In IMS/VS, a collection of segments that contains one occurrence of the root segment type and all of its dependents arranged in a hierarchical sequence. It may be smaller than, equal to, or larger than the access method logical record.

DATABASE 2 *n*. Obsolete term for DB2.

DB2 *n*. An IBM relational database management system that is available as a licensed program on several operating systems. Programmers and users of DB2 can create, access, modify, and delete data in relational tables using a variety of interfaces.

DB2/VSE & VM *n*. The IBM DB2 relational database management system for the VSE and VM operating systems.

decimate *v.* To slip one's schedule for an indefinite period of time.

deactivate *v*. To take a resource of a node out of service, rendering it inoperable, or to place it in a state in which it cannot perform the functions for which it was designed.

decryption *n*. In computer security, the process of transforming encoded text or ciphertext into plaintext.

dedicated channel *n.* A channel that is not switched.

dedicated circuit *n*. A circuit that is not switched.

dedicated server *n*. A processor on a network that functions only as a server, not as a requester and a server.

deep computing *n*. Ultrafast computing that is combined with sophisticated analytical software to enable organizations to analyze, find patterns in, and take action on the data that they have gathered.

defragmentation *n*. The process of running a software utility to rewrite fragmented data to contiguous sectors of a computer storage medium to improve access and retrieval time.

delete *n*. A choice that removes a selected object. The space it occupied is usually filled by the remaining object or objects in the window.

delimiter 1. *n*. A character used to indicate the beginning and end of a character string. 2. *n*. A flag that separates and organizes items of data. 3. *n*. A character that groups or separates words or values in a line of input.

delta 1. *n*. A list of changes (e.g., the differences between two programs). 2. *n*. A wedge-shaped gap, especially one between two lines on a graph, as when one line represents the target and the other achievement-to-date (as in: "That's a huge delta!"). 3. *v*. To arrive at a result from some

known base, particularly by applying a percentage increase to all data (as in: “We’ll just delta off last year’s plan.”).

demo 1. *n*. A demonstration of hardware or software to senior management or customers; provides the ideal conditions for awakening dormant and unsuspected bugs. 2. *v*. To demonstrate.

dependency *n*. A minor exposure.

designated router *n*. A router that informs end nodes of the existence and identity of other routers. The selection of the designated router is based upon the router with the highest priority. When several routers share the highest priority, the router with the highest station address is selected.

desktop *n*. A graphical user interface (GUI) that enables a user to interact with and perform operations on a computer system.

destination address *n*. A code that identifies the location to which information is to be sent.

device 1. *n*. A mechanical, electrical, or electronic contrivance with a specific purpose. 2. *n*. In the AIX operating system, a valuator, button, or the keyboard. Buttons have values of 0 or 1 (up or down); valuators return values in a range, and the keyboard returns ASCII values.

device class *n*. The generic name for a group of device types; for example, all display stations belong to the same device class.

device driver 1. *n*. A file that contains the code needed to use an attached device. 2. *n*. A program that enables a computer to communicate with a specific peripheral device; for example, a printer, a videodisc player, or a CD-ROM drive. 3. *n*. A collection of subroutines that control the interface between I/O device adapters and the processor.

dialog 1. *n*. The interaction between a user and a computer. 2. *n*. In an interactive system, a series of related inquiries and responses similar to a conversation between two people.

dialog box 1. *n*. In Common User Access (CUA) architecture, a movable window, fixed in size, containing controls that a user uses to provide information required by an application so that it can continue to process a user request. This is a programmer term; the user term is pop-up window. 2. *n*. In OSF/Motif, a collection of data fields and buttons for setting controls, selecting from lists, choosing from mutually exclusive options, entering data, and presenting the user with messages.

dialog pop-up *n*. In Common User Access (CUA) architecture, a bordered area of the screen that is directly associated with a panel in a primary window. Through a dialog pop-up, a user provides information needed to complete a dialog in the underlying panel.

dial-up *adj*. Pertaining to a network connection that is established by dialing a telephone number.

digital 1. *adj*. Pertaining to data that consist of digits. 2. *adj*. Pertaining to data in the form of digits.

digital signature *n*. In e-commerce, data that is appended to, or is a cryptographic transformation of, a data unit and that enables the recipient of the data unit to verify the source and integrity of the unit and to recognize potential forgery.

direct access storage device (DASD) *n*. A mass storage medium on which a computer stores data.

directory 1. n. In a hierarchical file system, a container for files or other directories. See *path*. 2. *n*. In an APPN node, a database that lists names of resources (in particular, logical units) and records the CP name of the node where each resource is located. See distributed directory database and local directory database. 3. *n*. In VM, a Control Program (CP) disk file that defines each virtual machine's typical configuration: the user ID, password, regular and maximum allowable virtual storage, CP command privilege class or classes allowed, dispatching priority, logical editing symbols to be used, account number, and CP options desired.

disable *v*. To make nonfunctional.

disabled 1. *adj*. Pertaining to a state of a processing unit that prevents the occurrence of certain types of interruptions. 2. *adj*. Pertaining to the state in which a transmission control unit or audio response unit cannot accept incoming calls on a line. 3. *adj*. In VTAM, pertaining to a logical unit (LU) that has indicated to its system services control point (SSCP) that it is temporarily not ready to establish LU-LU sessions. An initiate request for a session with a disabled logical unit (LU) can specify that the session be queued by the SSCP until the LU becomes enabled. The LU can separately indicate whether this applies to its ability to act as a primary logical unit (PLU) or a secondary logical unit (SLU).

disk drive *n*. A diskette drive or a hard disk drive (as opposed to a CD-ROM drive).

disk operating system *n*. An operating system for computer systems that use disks and diskettes for auxiliary storage of programs and data.

display 1. *n*. A visual presentation of data. 2. *v*. To present data visually. 3. *n*. Obsolete term for panel.

display panel *n*. In computer graphics, a predefined display image that defines the locations and characteristics of display fields on a display surface.

display station *n.* An input/output device containing a display screen and an attached keyboard that allows a user to send information to or receive information from the system. See *terminal* and *workstation*.

distributed print system *n*. A computer system that interchanges print data across different computing environments, thereby allowing data to be printed on a system other than the one at which the print request was generated. For example, in host-to-LAN distributed printing, data that resides on the host is printed on printers attached to a local area network (LAN).

distributed processing *n*. Processing that takes place across two or more linked systems.

docked 1. *adj*. Pertaining to a mobile computer that is connected to its docking station. 2. *adj*. Pertaining to an element of a Microsoft Windows interface (such as the application desktop toolbar) that is aligned with and attached to the edge of another element of the interface, such as a window or a pane.

docking station *n*. A hardware device that enables a mobile computer to function as a desktop computer. For example, a peripheral device (such as an external monitor, an external modem, or external speakers) can be connected to a mobile computer via its docking station. Also, a docking station may contain devices (such as CD-ROM drives) that the mobile computer does not have; but when the mobile computer is docked, it can use all components and features of the docking station (including the capability to lock the mobile computer).

document root directory *n.* The primary directory in which a Web server stores accessible documents. When the server receives requests that do not point to a specific directory, it tries to serve the requests from this directory.

document type *n*. The type of data in a particular Printing Systems Manager (PSM) document. For example, a print file document contains only printable data, and a print resource document contains only data such as fonts or form definitions that are not printable.

domain 1. *n*. That part of a computer network in which the data processing resources are under common control. 2. *n*. In Open Systems Interconnection (OSI), a part of a distributed system or a set of managed objects to which a common policy applies. 3. *n*. In a database, all the possible values of an attribute or a data element.

domain name *n*. In the Internet suite of protocols, a name of a host system. A domain name consists of a sequence of subnames separated by a delimiter character. For example, if the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) of a host system is ralvm7.vnet.ibm.com, each of the following is a domain name: ralvm7.vnet.ibm.com; vnet.ibm.com; ibm.com

domain name server *n*. In the Internet suite of protocols, a server that responds to queries from clients for name-to-address and address-to-name mappings as well as for other information.

Domain Name System (DNS) *n.* In the Internet suite of protocols, the distributed database system used to map domain names to IP addresses.

domain search *n.* A search initiated by a network node to all its authorized client APPN end nodes (that allow themselves to be searched) when it receives a search request for which it has no entry in its database.

done deal *n. Fait accompli*, a matter than cannot be changed.

dotted to 1. *adj*. Having a managerial relationship that cannot be described in a hierarchical tree. Contemporary matrixes organizations have numerous such relationships.

DOS *n*. Disk Operating System (see).

dotted decimal notation *n*. The syntactical representation of an IP address. The 4 bytes of the address are written as four decimal numbers separated by periods (dots), for example, 9.37.83.123.

double-byte character session *n*. A display station operating session that uses double-byte character data for the system to communicate with the operator.

double-byte character set (DBCS) *n*. A set of characters in which each character is represented by 2 bytes. Languages such as Japanese, Chinese, and Korean, which contain more symbols than can be represented by 256 code points, require double-byte character sets. Because each character requires 2 bytes, the typing, display, and printing of DBCS characters requires hardware and programs that support DBCS.

double-click *v*. To press and release a button on a pointing device twice while a pointer is within the limits that the user has specified for the operating environment.

doubleword *n*. A contiguous sequence of bits or characters that comprises two computer words and is capable of being addressed as a unit.

down *adj*. Not working; the opposite of *up* (see). Crashed.

down-level 1. *adj*. Out-of-date. Applied to a piece of software or document that is not the latest (current) version.

download 1 *v.* To transfer programs or data from a computer to a connected device, typically a personal computer. 2. *v.* To transfer data from a computer to a connected device, such as a workstation or microcomputer.

downstream 1. *adj*. In a network, pertaining to the direction to which data flows. 2. *adj*. In a hierarchical network structure, pertaining to the location of a network entity that is lower in the hierarchy. For example, a client is downstream from a server.

downstream device *n*. For the IBM 3710 Network Controller, a device located in a network so that the 3710 is positioned between the device and a host. A display terminal downstream from the 3710 is an example of a downstream device.

downtime *n*. The length of time that a system is not available to users.

drag *v*. To use a pointing device to move an object. For example, a user can drag a window border to make the window larger.

drag and drop *v*. To directly manipulate an object by moving it and placing it somewhere else using a pointing device (such as a *mouse* (see)).

drive 1. *n*. A peripheral device, especially one that has addressed storage media. 2. *n*. The mechanism used to seek, read, and write information on a storage medium. 3. *v*. To push a project along in spite of many obstacles and objections.

drive designation *n*. A letter (from A to Z) that an operating system assigns to a disk, a partition, or a network directory to give the system a unique way to refer to the resource.

driver See *device driver*.

drop-dead date *n*. A deadline by which certain events must have occurred if irretrievable loss of honor is to be avoided.

dump 1. *n*. A collection or recitation of all available information about a problem (as in: "I need a quick dump on that issue."). 2. *v*. To record, at a particular instant, the contents of all or part of one storage device in another storage device. Dumping is usually for the purpose of debugging. 3. *n*. Data that has been dumped. 4. *v*. To copy data in a readable format from main or auxiliary storage onto an external medium such as tape, diskette, or printer. 5. *v*. To copy the contents of all or part of virtual storage for the purpose of collecting error information.

duplex 1. *adj*. Pertaining to communication in which data can be sent and received at the same time. Contrast with half-duplex. 2. *adj*. Pertaining to printing on both sides of a sheet of paper such that the bottom of the printed image on one side of the paper is juxtaposed against the bottom of the printed image on the other side of the paper. Contrast with simplex and tumble.

dynamic 1. *adj.* In programming languages, pertaining to properties that can only be established during the execution of a program; for example, the length of a variable-length data object is dynamic. 2. *adj*. Pertaining to an operation that occurs at the time it is needed rather than at a predetermined or fixed time.

dynamic partition *n.* A partition configured at the time of program execution according to the storage requirements of the application program or program to which the partition is allocated.

E

ease-of-use *n*. The attribute of being easy to use, often more in the eyes of the designer than those of the user.

e-business *n.* Either (a) the transaction of business over an electronic medium such as the Internet or (b) any organization (for example, commercial, industrial, nonprofit, educational, or governmental) that transacts its business over an electronic medium such as the Internet. An e-business combines the resources of traditional information systems with the vast reach of an electronic medium such as the Internet (including the World Wide Web, intranets, and extranets); it connects critical business systems directly to critical business constituencies — customers, employees, and suppliers. The key to becoming an e-business is building a transaction-based Web site in which all core business processes (especially all processes that require a dynamic and interactive flow of information) are put online to improve service, cut costs, and sell products.

echo 1. *n*. In computer graphics, the immediate notification of the current values provided by an input device to the operator at the display console. 2. *n*. In word processing, to print or display each character or line as it is keyed in. 3. *n*. In data communication, a reflected signal on a communications channel. For example, on a communications terminal, each signal is displayed twice, once when entered at the local terminal and again when returned over the communications link. This allows the signals to be checked for accuracy.

echo check 1. *n*. A check to determine the correctness of the transmission of data in which the received data are returned to the source for comparison with the originally transmitted data. 2. *n*. A method of checking the accuracy of transmission of data in which the received data are returned to the sending end for comparison with the original data.

e-commerce *n*. The subset of e-business that involves the exchange of money for goods or services purchased over an electronic medium such as the Internet.

edit *n.* A choice on a menu bar that provides access to other choices that enable a user to modify data.

electronic mail (e-mail) 1. *n*. Correspondence in the form of messages transmitted between user terminals over a computer network. 2. *n*. The generation, transmission, and display of correspondence and documents by electronic means.

element 1. *n*. A field in the network address. 2. *n*. In SNA, the particular resource within a subarea that is identified by an element address. 3. *n*. A component of the OS/390 operating system. Some elements previously existed as separate IBM products, some continue to exist as separate IBM products, and some are available only as part of the OS/390 operating system.

e-mail See *electronic mail*.

emulation *n*. The use of a data processing system to imitate another data processing system such that the imitating system accepts the same data, executes the same programs, and achieves the same results as the imitated system.

emulation mode *n*. The function of a network control program that enables it to perform activities equivalent to those performed by a transmission control unit. Contrast with network control mode.

Emulation Program (EP) 1. *n*. An IBM control program that allows a channel-attached IBM communication controller to emulate the functions of an IBM 2701 Data Adapter Unit, an IBM 2702 Transmission Control, or an IBM 2703 Transmission Control.

enable *v*. To make functional.

enabled 1. *adj*. Pertaining to a state of the processing unit that allows the occurrence of certain types of interruptions. 2. *adj*. Pertaining to the state in which a transmission control unit or an audio response unit can accept incoming calls on a line. 3. *adj.* In VTAM, pertaining to a logical unit (LU) that has indicated to its system services control point (SSCP) that it is ready to establish LU-LU sessions. The LU can separately indicate whether this prevents it from acting as a primary logical unit (PLU) or a secondary logical unit (SLU).

encapsulation 1. *n*. In communication, a technique used by layered protocols by which a layer adds control information to the protocol data unit (PDU) from the layer it supports. In this respect, the layer encapsulates the data from the supported layer. In the Internet suite of protocols, for example, a packet would contain control information from the physical layer, followed by control information from the network layer, followed by the application protocol data. 2. *n*. In object-oriented programming, the technique that is used to hide the inherent details of an object. This technique is also known as "information hiding." 3. *n*. In object-oriented programming, a software technique in which data is packaged with corresponding procedures. In CORBA, the object is the mechanism for encapsulation.

encryption *n.* In computer security, the process of transforming data into an unintelligible form in such a way that the original data either cannot be obtained or can be obtained only by using a decryption process.

end of the day *n*. The ultimate moment. A term not tied specifically to sunset or midnight; used by IBMers to make a sweeping generalization or conclusion (as in: "At the end of the day, this product will be a winner.").

end user *n.* A person at the end of the chain of hardware, systems and interfaces.

Enterprise Firewall Manager (EFM) *n*. A component of the IBM Firewall that allows an organization to manage the configuration of multiple firewalls from a central location. This term may also refer to a machine on which this component is installed or to an IBM Firewall that is configured to be the EFM.

enterprise server *n*. A robust, powerful server with extensive capabilities and resources that can provide the necessary reliability, availability, and scalability for network computing. Other computers can connect to the enterprise server and share the facilities that it provides. Examples of enterprise servers include the IBM S/390 family of servers.

Enterprise Systems Connection (ESCON) *n*. A set of IBM products and services that provide a dynamically connected environment within an enterprise.

entity *n*. Any concrete or abstract thing of interest, including associations among things; for example, a person, object, event, or process that is of interest in the context under consideration, and about which data may be stored in a database.

entry field *n*. An area into which a user types or places text. Its boundaries are usually indicated.

envelope 1. *n*. That part of a message containing information used in the submission, sending, or delivery of the message. 2. *n*. A storage area used to hold packets, datagrams, or fragments during TCP/IP processing.

epoch *n*. The time and date corresponding to 0 in an operating system's clock and time-stamp values. For most versions of the UNIX operating system, the epoch is 00:00:00 GMT, 01 January 1970. System time is measured as the number of seconds past the epoch.

error *n*. A discrepancy between a computed, observed, or measured value or condition and the true, specified, or theoretically correct value or condition.

error log 1. *n*. A data set or file in a product or system where error information is stored for later access. 2. *n*. A form in a maintenance library that is used to record error information about a product or system. 3. *n*. A record of machine checks, device errors, and volume statistical data.

error recovery procedures (ERP) 1. *n*. Procedures designed to help isolate and, where possible, to recover from errors in equipment. The procedures are often used in conjunction with programs that record information on machine malfunctions. 2. *n*. A set of routines that attempt to recover from transmission errors.

escalate *v*. To take a disputed matter to a higher managerial authority for resolution (otherwise known as "kicking it upstairs."). Sometimes used by IBMers as a threat to force consensus between disputing parties (as in: "If we can't agree on this issue, I'll have to escalate it to ...").

Ethernet *n*. A 10-Mbps baseband local area network that allows multiple stations to access the transmission medium at will without prior coordination, avoids contention by using carrier sense and deference, and resolves contention by using collision detection and delayed retransmission. Ethernet uses carrier sense multiple access with collision detection (CSMA/CD).

EuroReady product *n.* A product is EuroReady if the product, when used in accordance with its associated documentation, is capable of correctly processing monetary data in the euro

denomination, respecting the euro currency formatting conventions (including the euro sign). This assumes that all other products (for example, hardware, software, and firmware) that are used with this product are also EuroReady. IBM hardware products that are EuroReady may or may not have an engraved euro sign key on their keyboards.

event 1. *n*. An occurrence of significance to a task (such as the opening of a window or the completion of an asynchronous operation). 2. *n*. In the Tivoli environment, any significant change in the state of a system resource, network resource, or network application. An event can be generated for a problem, for the resolution of a problem, or for the successful completion of a task. Examples of events are: the normal starting and stopping of a process, the abnormal termination of a process, and the malfunctioning of a server.

exabit (Eb) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 260 or 1 152 921 504 606 846 976 bits. 2. *n*. For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1 000 000 000 000 000 000 bits.

exabyte (EB) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 260 or 1 152 921 504 606 846 976 bytes. 2. *n*. For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1 000 000 000 000 000 000 bytes.

exception *n*. An abnormal condition such as an I/O error encountered in processing a data set or a file.

EXEC *n*. In a VM operating system, a user-written command file that contains CMS commands, other user-written commands, and execution control statements, such as branches.

execute *v*. To perform the actions specified by a program or a portion of a program.

exit *v*. To execute an instruction within a section of a computer program (for example, within a loop, subroutine, or module) in order to terminate the execution of that section.

expansion slot *n*. A location in a computer where an optional adapter can be installed to add function to the computer.

exposure 1. *n*. Some aspect of a project that looks as though it may become a problem (as in: “That’s a big exposure.”). 2. *n*. Danger, risk. 3. *n*. Visibility to upper management (as in: “You’ll get good exposure in this assignment.”).

extended architecture (XA) *n*. An extension to System/370 architecture that takes advantage of continuing high performance enhancements to computer system hardware.

extranet *n*. A private, virtual network that uses access control and security features to restrict the usage of one or more intranets attached to the Internet to selected subscribers (such as personnel from a sponsoring company and its business partners).

F

face time *n*. The often coveted condition of being in the physical presence of a higher managerial authority.

facsimile machine *n*. A functional unit that converts images to signals for transmission over a telephone system or that converts received signals back to images.

FAT See *file allocation table*.

fault *n.* An accidental condition that causes a functional unit to fail to perform its required function.

fault management *n*. The process of detecting and managing abnormal network or system behavior.

fax 1. *n*. Hard copy received from a facsimile machine. 2. *v*. To transmit an image, using a telephone system and facsimile machines.

feature *n*. A part of an IBM product that may be ordered separately by the customer.

fiber optic network *n*. A network based on the technology and standards that define data transmission using cables of glass or plastic fibers carrying light. The advantages of a fiber optic network are higher transmission speeds, greater carrying capacity, lower error rates, and lighter, more compact cables that are less susceptible to electromagnetic interference.

fiber optics *n*. The branch of optical technology concerned with the transmission of radiant power through fibers made of transparent materials such as glass, fused silica, and plastic.

field 1. *n*. An identifiable area in a window. Examples of fields are: an entry field, into which a user can type or place text, and a field of radio button choices, from which a user can select one choice. 2. *n*. The smallest identifiable part of a record. 3. *n*. In Tivoli NetView, the building block of which objects are composed. A field is characterized by a field name, a data type (integer, Boolean, character string, or enumerated value), and a set of flags that describe how the field is treated by Tivoli NetView. A field can contain data only when it is associated with an object.

field replaceable unit (FRU) *n*. An assembly that is replaced in its entirety when any one components fails. In some cases, a field replaceable unit may contain other field replaceable units.

field-formatted *adj*. Pertaining to a request or response that is encoded into fields, each having a specified format such as binary codes, bit-significant flags, and symbolic names. .

file *n*. A named set of records stored or processed as a unit.

file allocation table (FAT) *n*. In IBM personal computers, a table used to allocate space on a disk for a file and to locate and chain together parts of the file that may be scattered on different sectors so that the file can be used in a random or sequential manner.

file name extension *n*. An addition to a file name that identifies the file type (for example, text file or program file).

file server *n*. A high-capacity disk storage device or a computer that each computer on a network can use to access and retrieve files that can be shared among the attached computers; for example, an IBM 5170 Personal Computer AT used to serve files on a network. Access to a file is usually controlled by the file server's software rather than by the operating system of the computer that accesses the file.

file transfer *n.* The transfer of one or more files from one system to another over a data link.

File Transfer Protocol (FTP) *n*. In the Internet suite of protocols, an application layer protocol that uses TCP and Telnet services to transfer bulk-data files between machines or hosts.

filter 1. *n*. A device or program that separates data, signals, or material in accordance with specified criteria. 2. *n*. In Tivoli NetView for OS/390, a function that limits the data recorded in the database or displayed at the terminal.

firewall 1. *n*. In communication, a functional unit that protects and controls the connection of one network to other networks. The firewall (a) prevents unwanted or unauthorized communication traffic from entering the protected network and (b) allows only selected communication traffic to leave the protected network. 2. *n*. In equipment, a partition used to control the spread of fire.

firmware *n*. Proprietary code that is usually delivered as microcode as part of an operating system. Firmware is more efficient than software loaded from an alterable medium and more adaptable to change than pure hardware circuitry. An example of firmware is the Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) in read-only memory (ROM) on a PC motherboard.

first-in-first-out (FIFO) *n.* A queuing technique in which the next item to be retrieved is the item that has been in the queue for the longest time.

fix *n*. A correction for a software problem.

fixed disk See *hard disk*.

flag 1. *v*. To mark an information item for selection for further processing. 2. *n*. A character that signals the occurrence of some condition, such as the end of a word.

flatten *v*. To bring under control, to eliminate, or to make less conspicuous.

flip chart *n*. A large piece of paper used for drawing charts as a presentation aid. Once especially favored for formal presentations at IBM headquarters locations, flip charts have been generally superseded by *foils*, slides, PCs and projection displays.

focal point *n*. A person who has been assigned responsibility for coordinating an effort or supporting a large project (usually with little real decision-making authority).

focus *n*. Critical scrutiny with a view to achieving swift corrective action (as in: "We're going to make that a key focus this year.").

foil *n*. View graph, transparency, view foil — a thin sheet of transparent plastic material used for "overhead" projection of illustrations (visual aids). This is a widely used device in IBM and many IBMers are physically incapable of delivering an oral presentation without a stack of foils.

folder *n*. A container used to organize objects.

font *n*. A family of characters of a given size and style; for example, 9-point Helvetica.

food chain *n*. The hierarchical line of management (as in: "He is too low in the food chain to affect this.")

footprint 1. *n.* The floor or desk space taken up by some piece of computer equipment, such as a terminal or processor. 2. *n*. The amount of computer storage that is occupied by a computer program. For example, if a program occupies a large amount of storage, it has a large footprint.

foreground process 1. *n*. In the AIX operating system, a process that must run to completion before another command is issued to the shell. The foreground process is in the foreground process group, which is the group that receives the signals generated by a terminal.

foreground task *n*. The task with which the user is interacting.

forum *n*. A file containing discussions about a given topic on a conference disk.

fragmentation 1. *n*. An operating system's process of writing different parts of a file to discontiguous sectors on a computer storage medium when contiguous space that is large enough to contain the entire file is not available. When data is thus fragmented, the time that it takes to access the data may increase because the operating system must search different tracks for information that should be in one location. 2. *n*. The process of dividing a datagram into smaller parts, or fragments, to match the capabilities of the physical medium over which it is to be transmitted.

frequency *n*. The rate of signal oscillation, expressed in hertz.

full-screen mode *n*. A form of screen presentation in which the contents of an entire terminal screen can be displayed at once. Full-screen mode is often used for fill-in-the-blanks prompting.

fun and games *n*. Anything that does not directly result in short term revenue.

function *n*. An undefined measure of the value of a program or machine, in the sense of describing what it is able to achieve.

function key *n*. A key that performs a specified set of operations when it is pressed.

functional unit *n*. Hardware, software, or a combination of hardware and software that is capable of accomplishing a specified purpose.

functionality *adj.* Capability, function.

G

GA (*gee-ay) n*. General Availability. The time at which product is available to anyone who wishes to buy it.

garbage collection *n.* The process of identifying unused areas of main storage.

gateway 1. *n*. A functional unit that interconnects two computer networks with different network architectures. A gateway connects networks or systems of different architectures. A bridge interconnects networks or systems with the same or similar architectures. 2. *n*. A functional unit that connects two networks or subnetworks having different characteristics, such as different protocols or different policies concerning security or transmission priority. 3. *n*. The combination of machines and programs that provide address translation, name translation, and system services control point (SSCP) rerouting between independent SNA networks to allow those networks to communicate. A gateway consists of one gateway NCP and at least one gateway VTAM. 4. *n*. In the IBM Token-Ring Network, a device and its associated software that connect a local area network to another local area network or a host that uses different logical link protocols. 5. *n*. In a Tivoli environment, software running on a managed node that provides all communication services between a group of endpoints and the rest of the Tivoli environment. This gateway includes the multiplexed distribution (MDist) function, enabling it to act as the fanout point for distributions to many endpoints.

general help *n*. A choice that gives a user a brief overview of each action or task, or both, that a user can perform within a window.

generation *n.* The process of assembling and link editing definition statements so that resources can be identified to all the necessary programs in a network.

gigabit (Gb) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 230 or 1 073 741 824 bits. 2. *n*. For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1 000 000 000 bits.

gigabyte (GB) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 230 or 1 073 741 824 bytes. 2. *n*. For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1 000 000 000 bytes.

glass house *n*. Term once applied to a large data processing center. Such a facility is now sometimes called a "server farm.").

glyph *n.* An image, usually of a character, in a font.

GMT See *Greenwich mean time*.

go to the mat *v*. To fight it out by going to higher authority.

golden diskette *n*. The release version of a PC software package. Also known as golden code.

golf ball *n*. The removable typing element used in the IBM Selectric typewriter.

Gopher *n.* A protocol that provides a menu-driven interface for accessing files and information on other computers over the Internet. Gopher was developed at the University of Minnesota; the name "Gopher" originates from the Minnesota school mascot, which is the Golden Gopher.

graph *n*. A set of vertices and the set of arcs that link pairs of those vertices.

graphical interchange format (GIF) *n*. A digital format that is used to compress and transfer graphical information over computer networks. For example, GIF is a common format for graphical information on the Internet.

graphical user interface (GUI) *n.* A type of computer interface consisting of a visual metaphor of a real-world scene, often of a desktop. Within that scene are icons, representing actual objects, that the user can access and manipulate with a pointing device.

green sheet 1. *n*. The Travel Expense Allowance (TEA) multi-part form used in the United States to submit expenses for reimbursement. 2. *v*. To submit an expense for repayment (as in: "Go ahead and green sheet that item.").

Greenwich mean time (GMT) *n.* The mean solar time at the prime meridian (0 degrees longitude) of Greenwich, England. Greenwich mean time is sometimes called Z time or Zulu time. Although Greenwich mean time and coordinated universal time are sometimes used interchangeably, they are not synonyms. Greenwich mean time is an approximate time. Because the second is no longer defined in terms of astronomical phenomena, the preferred name for this time scale is coordinated universal time (UTC).

group address *n.* A single transport address identifying a collection of users. The collection of users is formed so that they can all receive common multicast datagrams.

groupware *n*. Software that enables messaging and collaborative work among people.

GUI See *graphical user interface.*

H

half-duplex (HD, HDX) *adj.* In data communication, pertaining to transmission in only one direction at a time.

halfword *n.* A contiguous sequence of bits or characters that constitutes half a computer word and can be addressed as a unit.

hall talk *n*. Gossip.

hand off *v.* To dispose of an unwanted task, piece of business or requirement by maneuvering it into the in-box of an unsuspecting or accommodating colleague.

handheld device *n*. Any computing device that can be held in the hand. Handheld devices include palm-sized PCs and personal digital assistants (PDAs).

handle 1. *n*. In the Advanced DOS and OS/2 operating systems, a binary value created by the system that identifies a drive, directory, and file so that the file can be found and opened. 2. *n*. In the AIX operating system, a data structure that is a temporary local identifier for an object. Allocating a handle creates it. Binding a handle makes it identify an object at a specific location. 3. *n*. In OS/400 application programming interfaces, a variable that represents an object.

hands-on *n.* Physical access to equipment.

hard disk *n*. A mass storage medium for computers that is typically available as a fixed disk (such as the disks used in the system units of personal computers or in drives that are external to a personal computer) or a removable cartridge.

hard drive *n*. The correct term is “hard disk drive.” See *drive* and *hard disk*.

hard error *n*. An error condition on a network that requires that the network be reconfigured or that the source of the error be removed before the network can resume reliable operation.

hardcoded *adj*. Pertaining to software instructions that are statically encoded and not intended to be altered.

hardcopy 1. *n*. A permanent copy of a display image generated on an output device such as a printer or plotter, and which can be carried away. 2. *n*. A printed copy of machine output in a visually readable form; for example, printed reports, listings, documents, and summaries.

hardening *n.* The process of disabling nonsecure software on the machine where the IBM Firewall is being installed.

hardstop *n.* The nominal absolute latest moment at which a meeting must end or a departure take place (as in: "I have a hardstop at 2.").

hardware configuration definition *n.* An interactive tool that can be used to define hardware configurations to the operating system and the channel subsystem.

hardwire *v*. To code as a constant value something that would normally be a changeable parameter.

headcount *n*. The number of authorized personnel currently allocated to a manager or project (whether or not the allocation is filled by warm bodies).

header 1. *n*. System-defined control information that precedes user data. 2. *n*. The portion of a message that contains control information for the message such as one or more destination fields, name of the originating station, input sequence number, character string indicating the type of message, and priority level for the message.

hear *v*. To understand and sympathize with, and invariably followed by "but" (as in: "I hear you but I can't give you any help on that problem.").

heartbeat *n.* In software products, a signal that one entity sends to another to convey that it is still active.

Hello *n*. A protocol used by a group of cooperating, trusting routers to allow them to discover minimal delay routes.

hello message 1. *n*. A message sent periodically to establish and test reachability between routers or between routers and hosts. 2. *n*. In the Internet suite of protocols, a message defined by the Hello protocol as an Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP).

help 1. *n*. Something provided by headquarters staff, especially in times of great difficulty. Often this term is used in conjunction with the observation that "If we don't improve the situation, we'll get more *Help* than we can imagine." *2. n.* A choice that gives a user access to helpful information about objects, choices, tasks, and products. A Help choice can appear on a menu bar or as a push button.

hexadecimal 1. *adj*. Pertaining to a selection, choice, or condition that has 16 possible different values or states. 2. *adj*. Pertaining to a fixed-radix numeration system, with radix of 16. 3. *adj.*

Pertaining to a system of numbers to the base 16; hexadecimal digits range from 0 through 9 and A through F, where A represents 10 and F represents 15.

hierarchical network *n.* A network in which processing and control functions are performed at several levels by computers specially suited for the functions performed; for example, in factory or laboratory automation.

hierarchy *n*. The resource types, display types, and data types that make up the organization, or levels, in a network.

high-availability cluster multiprocessing (HACMP) *n.* An application service that enables up to eight RS/6000 servers to access the same data in parallel. This optimizes application execution and scalability and protects against unplanned outages and server downtime.

high-level language (HLL) *n*. A programming language that does not reflect the structure of any particular computer or operating system.

highlighting *v.* Emphasizing a display element or segment by modifying its visual attributes.

high-PO *adj*. High potential, the state of grace and expectation bestowed on younger employees considered to have the traits and skills necessary for eventual ascension into executive assignments.

hiperspace *n.* A range of up to 2 gigabytes of contiguous virtual storage addresses that a program can use as a buffer. A hiperspace is like a data space in the following ways: A hiperspace can hold user data; it does not contain common areas or system data. Instructions do not execute in a hiperspace. However, a hiperspace is unlike a data space (or an address space) in that data is not directly addressable in the hiperspace. To manipulate data in a hiperspace, the data must be brought into the address space in 4KB blocks.

hiragana *n.* One of the two common Japanese phonetic alphabets (the other is katakana). In hiragana, each character is represented by 1 byte.

home page *n*. The initial Web page that is returned by a Web site when a user specifies the uniform resource locator (URL) for the Web site. For example, if a user specifies the URL for the IBM Web site, which is http://www.ibm.com, the Web page that is returned is the IBM home page. Essentially, the home page is the entry point for accessing the contents of the Web site. The home page may sometimes be called the “welcome page” or the “front page.”

home position *n.* The position to which a cursor normally returns.

hook *n*. A location in a computer program where an instruction is inserted for invoking a particular function.

host 1. *n*. A computer that is connected to a network (such as the Internet or an SNA network) and provides an access point to that network. Also, depending on the environment, the host may provide centralized control of the network. The host can be a client, a server, or both a client and a server simultaneously. 2. *n*. In a Tivoli environment, a computer that serves as a managed node for a profile distribution. 3. *v*. To provide the software and services for managing a Web site.

host byte order *n.* The byte order that a central processing unit (CPU) uses to store and process data. This byte order can be big endian or little endian, depending on the particular CPU.

Host Command Facility (HCF) *n*. A feature available on System/390, 43xx, and 30xx host systems that enables users to access application programs on other systems as if they were using remotely attached 5250-type display stations.

host ID *n*. In the Internet suite of protocols, that part of the IP address that defines the host system on the network. The length of the host ID depends on the type of network or network class (A, B, or C).

host name *n.* In the Internet suite of protocols, the name given to a computer. Sometimes, "host name" is used to mean fully qualified domain name; other times, it is used to mean the most specific subname of a fully qualified domain name. For example, if mycomputer.city.company.com is the fully qualified domain name, either of the following may be considered the host name:

mycomputer.city.company.com
mycomputer

host node 1. *n*. A node at which a host computer is located. 2. *n*. A node that provides an application programming interface (API) and a common application interface.

host processor 1. *n*. A processor that controls all or part of a user application network. 2. *n.* In a network, the processing unit in which the data communication access method resides.

hot disconnect *n*. A slang term for the process of breaking the connection between a computer and its network without shutting down the communication software that supports the connection. For example, a hot disconnect occurs when a user removes a laptop computer from its docking station without shutting down the system. A hot disconnect is possible only with hardware that is Plug and Play compatible.

hot key 1. *n*. The key combination used to change from one session to another on the workstation. 2. *v*. To jump, or hot key, from a host session to an application on the workstation, or from the workstation to the host session.

Houston Automatic Spooling Program (HASP) *n*. A computer program that provides supplementary job management, data management, and task management functions, such as control of job flow, ordering of tasks, and spooling.

hover help. *n.* Help information that appears when a mouse cursor moves (or "hovers") over a particular part of a computer screen for a predefined amount of time.

how hard would it be? *adv*. A plaintive litany used when venturing suggestions for changes almost always in conjunction with some preposterously difficult proposal which to the requester seems simple (as in: "Come on, how hard would it be to make that fix?").

hub *n*. In a network, a point at which circuits are either connected or switched. For example, in a star network, the hub is the central node; in a star/ring network, it is the location of wiring concentrators.

hung *adj*. Not responding to requests.

hung terminal *n*. A terminal to which a session is disrupted and that cannot send or receive commands.

hypertext *n*. A way of presenting information online with connections (called hypertext links) between one piece of information and another.

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) *n*. A markup language that conforms to the SGML standard and was designed primarily to support the online display of textual and graphical information that includes hypertext links.

Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) *n*. In the Internet suite of protocols, the protocol that is used to transfer and display hypertext documents.

I

IBM OS/2 Presentation Manager *n.* The front-end data manager and user interface for the IBM OS/2 operating system; an example of a graphical user interface.

IBM SecureWay Software *n.* A family of IBM software products that provide the reliable, secure communications infrastructure that is necessary for global network computing, thereby enabling e-business. IBM SecureWay Software is based on open, cross-platform standards. IBM SecureWay Software enables an e-business to "locate, connect, and secure," or, in other words, to (a) locate the resources (people, information, and applications) in a network, (b) connect customers, suppliers, business partners, and employees to these resources across multiple, diverse computing systems, operating systems, and networks, and (c) secure communication, data, and transactions from unauthorized access or intrusion.

icon 1. *n*. A graphic symbol, displayed on a screen, that a user can point to with a device such as a mouse in order to select a particular function or software application. 2. *n*. A graphical

representation of an object (for example, a file or program) that consists of an image, an image background, and a label.

idempotency 1. *n.* A property of a mathematical operation whereby repeating the operation produces no change in the final result. For example, the operation of deducting $25.00 from an account balance is not idempotent, but the operation of setting an account balance to $500.00 is idempotent. 2. *n*. In SET Secure Electronic Transaction, a property that enables the sender of a request to repeat the request with a guarantee that the outcome will be the same regardless of whether the request is lost, the response is lost, or the request or response is delayed due to network problems. Idempotency is necessary because the SET protocol works in environments where message delivery is not guaranteed, and when the sender does not receive a response, it cannot determine the cause of the delay. If a SET application does not receive a response in a reasonable amount of time, it resends the message; when the receiving SET application determines that it has already processed that message, it retrieves the previous response and sends that response again.

idle character *n*. A character transmitted on a telecommunication line that is not intended to represent data and does not result in an output operation at the accepting terminal.

immediate access storage *n*. A storage device whose access time is negligible in comparison with other operating times.

impedance *n.* The combined effect of resistance, inductance, and capacitance on a signal at a given frequency.

inbound *adj.* In communication, pertaining to data that is received from the network.

include file *n.* A text file that contains declarations used by a group of functions, programs, or users.

indirect routing *n*. In Internet communications, the transmission of a datagram to a router for forwarding to a destination that resides on a different network from the source.

information appliance *n.* A computing device that is used to access, manipulate, or transmit information but is not traditionally thought of as a computer. Cellular phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs) are examples of information appliances.

Information Management System/Virtual Storage (IMS/VS) *n.* A database/data communication (DB/DC) system that can manage complex databases and networks.

initial chaining value (ICV) *n*. An 8-byte pseudo-random number used to verify that both ends of a session with cryptography have the same session cryptography key. The initial chaining value is also used as input to the Data Encryption Standard (DES) algorithm to encipher or decipher data in a session with cryptography.

initial program load (IPL) 1. *n*. The initialization procedure that causes an operating system to commence operation. 2. *n*. The process by which a configuration image is loaded into storage at the beginning of a work day or after a system malfunction. 3. *n*. The process of loading system programs and preparing a system to run jobs.

input field 1. *n*. In computer graphics, an unprotected field on a display surface in which data can be entered, modified, or erased. 2. *n*. A field in a display file into which a user can key in data. An input field is passed from the device to the program when the program reads the record containing that field.

input focus *n.* The position, indicated on the screen, where a user's interaction with the keyboard will appear.

input/output (I/O) *adj*. Pertaining to (a) input, output, or both or (b) a device, process, or channel involved in data input, data output, or both.

input/output channel 1. *n*. In a data processing system, a functional unit that handles transfer of data between internal and peripheral equipment. 2. *n*. In a computing system, a functional unit, controlled by a processor, that handles transfer of data between processor storage and local peripheral devices.

insert *v.* In LANs, to make an attaching device an active part of the LAN.

installation 1. *n*. In system development, preparing and placing a functional unit in position for use. 2. *n*. A particular computing system, including the work it does and the people who manage it, operate it, apply it to problems, service it, and use the results it produces.

installation exit *n.* The means specifically described in an IBM software product's documentation by which an IBM software product may be modified by a customer's system programmers to change or extend the functions of the IBM software product. Such modifications consist of exit routines written to replace one or more existing modules of an IBM software product, or to add one or more modules or subroutines to an IBM software product, for the purpose of modifying or extending the functions of the IBM software product.

installation exit routine *n*. A routine written by a user to take control at an installation exit of an IBM software product.

instance *n*. In object-oriented programming, an object created by instantiating a class.

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) *n*. A professional society accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to issue standards for the electronics industry.

instrument *v.* In application or system software, to use monitoring functions to provide performance and other information to a management system.

instrumentation *n.* In application or system software, either (a) monitoring functions that provide performance and other information to a management system or (b) the use of monitoring functions to provide performance and other information to a management system.

integrated services digital network (ISDN) *n*. A digital end-to-end telecommunication network that supports multiple services including, but not limited to, voice and data. ISDNs are used in public and private network architectures.

intelligent agent *n.* Software that monitors conditions or actions on a network node and contains logic enabling it to respond to these conditions or actions.

interactive 1. *adj.* Pertaining to a program or system that alternately accepts input and then responds. An interactive system is conversational, that is, a continuous dialog exists between user and system. 2. *adj.* Pertaining to the exchange of information between a user and a computer.

interarea routing *n*. In Internet communications, the routing of data between areas.

interconnected networks *n*. SNA networks connected by gateways.

interface 1. *n*. A shared boundary between two functional units, defined by functional characteristics, signal characteristics, or other characteristics, as appropriate. The concept includes the specification of the connection of two devices having different functions. 2. *n*. Hardware, software, or both, that links systems, programs, or devices. 3. *v*. (Of humans) To talk (as in: "I'm going to interface with the new manager.") 4. *v*. (Of machines) To connect.

interface layer *n.* In Internet communications, the Internet Protocol (IP) layer that is responsible for datagram transmission on a single physical network.

interior gateway *n*. In Internet communications, a gateway that communicates only with its own autonomous system.

Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP) *n.* In the Internet suite of protocols, a protocol used to propagate network reachability and routing information within an autonomous system. Examples of IGPs are Routing Information Protocol (RIP) and Open Shortest Path First (OSPF).

interleave *v.* To arrange parts of one sequence of things or events so that they alternate with parts of one or more other sequences of the same nature and so that each sequence retains its identity.

interleaving 1. *v.* The simultaneous accessing of two or more bytes or streams of data from distinct storage units. 2. *v*. The alternating of two or more operations or functions through the overlapped use of a computer facility.

intermediate node *n*. A node that is at the end of more than one branch.

internationalization *n*. In software engineering, the process of producing a product that is independent of any particular language, script, culture, and coded character set. Strictly speaking, an internationalized product is not usable in any region of the world until it is localized to a specific region. Once a product has been internationalized, it can be localized for a specific language, script, culture, and coded character set with minimal expense and effort. The word "internationalization" is sometimes abbreviated as "I18N"; this notation is used because there are 18 letters between the first letter "I" and the last letter "N" in the word "internationalization."

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) *n*. An organization of national standards bodies from various countries established to promote development of standards to facilitate international exchange of goods and services, and develop cooperation in intellectual, scientific, technological, and economic activity.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) *n*. The specialized telecommunication agency of the United Nations that was established to provide standardized communication procedures and practices, including frequency allocation and radio regulations worldwide.

internet *n*. A collection of interconnected networks that use the Internet suite of protocols. The internet that allows universal access is referred to as the Internet (with a capital "I"). An internet that provides restricted access (for example, to a particular enterprise or organization) is frequently called an intranet, whether or not it also connects to the public Internet.

Internet *n*. The worldwide collection of interconnected networks that use the Internet suite of protocols and permit public access.

Internet address See *IP address*.

internet layer *n.* In the Internet suite of protocols, the layer corresponding to the network layer in Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) architecture.

Internet Protocol (IP) *n*. In the Internet suite of protocols, a connectionless protocol that routes data through a network or interconnected networks and acts as an intermediary between the higher protocol layers and the physical network.

Internet router *n.* A device that forwards and routes IP datagrams from one network to another. Routers allow hosts on different networks to communicate with each other.

Internet service provider (ISP) *n*. An organization that provides access to the Internet.

Internet suite of protocols *n.* A set of protocols developed for use on the Internet and published as Requests for Comments (RFCs) through the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

interoperability *adj.* The capability to communicate, execute programs, or transfer data among various functional units in a way that requires the user to have little or no knowledge of the unique characteristics of those units.

interpret *v*. To execute code line-by-line rather than to compile it into a machine language program for execution at a later time.

interrupt 1. *n*. A suspension of a process, such as execution of a computer program caused by an external event, and performed in such a way that the process can be resumed. 2. *v*. To stop a process in such a way that it can be resumed.

interrupt number *n.* The identification that is used to send a signal from an installed hardware feature to the CPU requesting attention. Different hardware features use different interrupt numbers.

intranet *n.* A private network that integrates Internet standards and applications (such as Web browsers) with an organization's existing computer networking infrastructure.

invocation *n.* The activation of a program or procedure.

invoke *v.* To start a command, program, or procedure.

I/O See *input/output*.

IP See *Internet Protocol*.

IP address *n.* The unique 32-bit address that specifies the location of each device or workstation on the Internet. For example, 9.67.97.103 is an IP address.

IP datagram *n.* In the Internet suite of protocols, the fundamental unit of information transmitted through an internet. It contains source and destination addresses, user data, and control information such as the length of the datagram, the header checksum, and flags indicating whether the datagram can be or has been fragmented.

IP router *n*. A device in an IP internet that is responsible for making decisions about the paths over which network traffic will flow. Routing protocols are used to gain information about the network and to determine the best route over which the datagram should be forwarded toward the final destination. The datagrams are routed based on IP destination addresses.

IP tunnel *n.* A mechanism for data encapsulation across an IP network.

Iron Mountain *n*. Permanent "vital records" document storage.

IS (*eye-es) n*. Information Systems. The department or function that manages the computer installations at IBM sites.

ISDN See *integrated services digital network*.

issue *n*. A formal notification from one group to another that the first is dissatisfied with some action by the other and is prepared to take the matter to the next level of management to resolve the problem. Over time, the term has been extended to cover even minor differences of opinion (as in: "I have an issue with that color."). Similar to concern, exposure, non-concur.

issuer *n*. In e-commerce, a financial institution that issues payment cards to individuals. An issuer can act as its own certificate authority (CA) or can contract with a third party for the service.

IT (*eye-tee*) *n*. Information technology.

iterative server *n.* A server that can handle only one connection at a time. It can accept a new connection request only when it has completed processing the transaction started by a previous request.

ivory letter *n*. See *blue letter*.

J

Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC) *n.* An organization that issues standards for coding character sets.

Java *n*. An object-oriented programming language for portable interpretive code that supports interaction among remote objects. Java was developed and specified by Sun Microsystems, Incorporated.

Java Virtual Machine (JVM) *n*. A software implementation of a central processing unit (CPU) that runs compiled Java code (applets and applications).

JavaBeans *n*. A platform-independent, software component technology for building reusable Java components called "beans." Once built, these beans can be made available for use by other software engineers or can be used in Java applications. Also, using JavaBeans, software engineers can manipulate and assemble beans in a graphical drag-and-drop development environment.

JavaScript *n*. A scripting language that resembles Java and was developed by Netscape for use with the Netscape browser.

jitter *n.* A variation in the transmission delay of digital signals.

job 1. *n*. A unit of work defined by a user that is to be accomplished by a computer. Loosely, the term job is sometimes used to refer to a representation of a job. This representation may include a set of computer programs, files, and control statements to the operating system. 2. *n*. A Printing Systems Manager (PSM) object that represents a request to print one or more documents in a single printing session. 3. *n*. In a Tivoli environment, a resource consisting of a task and its

preconfigured execution parameters. Among other things, the execution parameters specify the set of hosts on which the job is to execute.

job control language (JCL) *n*. A control language used to identify a job to an operating system and to describe the job's requirements.

Job Entry Subsystem (JES) *n*. An IBM licensed program that receives jobs into the system and processes all output data produced by the jobs.

journal *n*. A chronological record of changes made in a set of data; the record may be used to reconstruct a previous version of the set.

journaling 1. *v*. The process of recording changes made in a physical file member in a journal. Journaling allows the programmer to reconstruct a physical member by applying the changes in the journal to a saved version of the physical file member. 2. *v*. The process of recording information sequentially in a database.

JPEG *n*. A standard format for storing compressed true-color images. "JPEG" represents "Joint Photographic Experts Group," which is the name of the committee that developed this standard format.

K

k, K *adj.* 1000 or 1024. The lower case "k" is the internationally agreed abbreviation for the prefix "kilo" (as in kilometer or 1,000 meters). The upper-case "K" is never the correct abbreviation for "kilo," and has come to mean the number 1,024 (two to the power of ten), and a measure of computer memory (storage).

Kanji *n.* A Japanese ideographic alphabet. In kanji, each character is represented by 2 bytes.

katakana *n*. One of the two common Japanese phonetic alphabets (the other is hiragana). In katakana, each character is represented by 1 byte. Katakana is primarily used to write foreign words phonetically.

Kb See *kilobit*.

KB See *kilobyte*.

Kbps *n.* Kilobits per second.

keepalive message *n*. In Internet communications, a message sent among nodes when no data traffic has been detected for a given period of time. This communication ensures the vitality of the session by keeping the link "alive."

Kerberos *n.* The security system of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT's) Project Athena. It uses symmetric key cryptography to provide security services to users in a network.

kernel *n*. The part of an operating system that performs basic functions such as allocating hardware resources.

key 1. *n*. In computer security, a sequence of symbols that is used with a cryptographic algorithm for encrypting or decrypting data. 2. *n*. In a relational database table, a column or a set of columns whose values identify one or more rows. 3. *adj*. Important.

key pair *n*. In computer security, a public key and a private key. When the key pair is used for encryption, the sender uses the public key to encrypt the message, and the recipient uses the private key to decrypt the message. When the key pair is used for signing, the signer uses the private key to encrypt a representation of the message, and the recipient uses the public key to decrypt the representation of the message for signature verification.

key ring *n.* In computer security, a file that contains public keys, private keys, trusted roots, and certificates.

keyboard remapping *n*. In Personal Communications, a facility that allows users to change the key assignments on the keyboard that they are using for emulation.

key-encrypting key *n*. In computer security, a key used for encryption and decryption of other keys.

Keys help *n*. A choice that presents a listing of all the key assignments for an object or a product.

keyword 1. *n*. In programming languages, a lexical unit that, in certain contexts, characterizes some language construct; for example, in some contexts, IF characterizes an if-statement. A keyword normally has the form of an identifier. 2. *n.* One of the predefined words of an artificial language. 3. *n*. A name or symbol that identifies a parameter. 4. *n*. The part of a command operand that consists of a specific character string (such as DSNAME=).

keyword operand *n*. An operand that consists of a keyword followed by one or more values (such as DSNAME=HELLO).

keyword parameter *n.* A parameter that consists of a keyword followed by one or more values.

kickoff meetings *n.* A series of meetings early in the year, originally in IBM marketing divisions, when senior managers outline the challenges and objectives for the year.

kilobit (Kb) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 210 or 1024 bits. 2. *n*. For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1000 bits.

kilobyte (KB) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 210 or 1024 bytes. 2. *n*. For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1000 bytes.

kludge (rhymes with stooge). 1. *n*. A quick-and-dirty fix. 2. *n*. Something large and complicated.

L

LAN See *local area network.*

LAN adapter *n.* The circuit card within a communicating device that, together with its associated software, enables the device to be attached to a LAN.

latency *n.* The time interval between the instant at which an instruction control unit initiates a call for data and the instant at which the actual transfer of the data starts.

layer 1. *n*. In network architecture, a group of services that is complete from a conceptual point of view, that is one out of a set of hierarchically arranged groups, and that extends across all systems that conform to the network architecture. 2. *n*. In the Open Systems Interconnection reference model, one of seven conceptually complete, hierarchically arranged groups of services, functions, and protocols, that extend across all open systems. 3. *n*. In SNA, a grouping of related functions that are logically separate from the functions in other groups. Implementation of the functions in one layer can be changed without affecting functions in other layers.

leave the business *v*. To leave IBM. When spoken, this phrase is usually rendered in a whisper.

LED See *light-emitting diode*.

LIFO *n.* Last-in-first-out. A queuing technique in which the next item to be retrieved is the item most recently placed in the queue.

light-emitting diode (LED) *n*. A semiconductor chip that gives off visible or infrared light when activated.

limited resource *n*. A connection facility that causes a session traversing it to be terminated if no session activity is detected for a specified period of time.

line data rate *n.* The rate of data transmission over a telecommunication link.

line group *n*. One or more telecommunication lines of the same type that can be activated and deactivated as a unit.

line mode *n.* A form of screen presentation in which the information is presented a line at a time in the message area of the terminal screen.

Line Printer Daemon (LPD) *n*. The printer server that allows other hosts to access its printer.

line speed *n.* The number of binary digits that can be sent over a telecommunication line in one second, expressed in bits per second (bps).

link 1. *n*. The combination of the link connection (the transmission medium) and two link stations, one at each end of the link connection. A link connection can be shared among multiple links in a multipoint or token-ring configuration. 2. *v*. To interconnect items of data or portions of one or more computer programs: for example, the linking of object programs by a linkage editor, linking of data items by pointers.

list box *n.* A control that contains a list of objects or settings choices that a user can select from.

list button *n.* A button labeled with an underlined down-arrow that presents a list of valid objects or choices that can be selected for that field.

little endian *n*. A format for storage or transmission of binary data in which the least significant bit (or byte) is placed first.

load 1. *v*. To bring all or part of a computer program into memory from auxiliary storage so that the computer can run the program. 2. *v*. To place a diskette into a diskette drive.

load module *n*. All or part of a computer program in a form suitable for loading into main storage for execution. A load module is usually the output of a linkage editor.

local *adj.* Pertaining to a device accessed directly without use of a telecommunication line.

local area network (LAN) 1. *n*. A computer network located on a user's premises within a limited geographical area. Communication within a local area network is not subject to external regulations; however, communication across the LAN boundary may be subject to some form of regulation. 2. *n*. A network in which a set of devices are connected to one another for communication and that can be connected to a larger network.

local host 1. *n*. In TCP/IP, the host on the network at which a particular operator is working. 2. *n*. In an internet, the host to which a user's terminal is connected without using the internet.

local network *n*. In an internet, the portion of a network that is physically connected to the local host without intermediate gateways or routers.

localization *n*. In software engineering, the process of adapting an internationalized product for a specific language, script, culture, and coded character set. In localization, semantics are preserved, but syntax may change. The word "localization" is sometimes abbreviated as "L10N"; this notation is used because there are 10 letters between the first letter "L" and the last letter "N" in the word "localization."

lock 1. *n*. The means by which integrity of data is ensured by preventing more than one user from accessing or changing the same data or object at the same time. 2. *n*. In Communications Server for OS/2 Warp, a password-protection system that can be used to prevent access to some advanced functions.

logical channel *n*. In packet mode operation, a sending channel and a receiving channel that together are used to send and receive data over a data link at the same time. Several logical channels can be established on the same data link by interleaving the transmission of packets.

logical device 1. *n*. A file for conducting input or output with a physical device. 2. *n.* A file for mapping user I/O between virtual and real devices.

log off *v.* To disconnect from a computer system or network. Some systems may use the term "sign off" for this concept.

log on *v*. To connect to a computer system or network. Some systems may use the term "log in" or "sign on" for this concept.

logoff *n.* The process of disconnecting from a computer system or network. Some systems may use the term "sign-off" for this concept.

logon *n.* The process of connecting to a computer system or network. Some systems may use the term "login" or "sign-on" for this concept.

loop adapter *n*. A feature of the IBM 4300 Processor family that allows the attachment of a variety of SNA and non-SNA devices. To VTAM, these devices appear as channel-attached type 2 physical units (PUs).

loopback interface *n*. An interface that bypasses unnecessary communications functions when the information is addressed to an entity within the same system.

loopback test *n.* A test in which signals from a tester are looped at a modem or other network element back to the tester for measurements that determine or verify the quality of the communications path.

M

m, M *adj.* The lower-case "m" is the internationally agreed abbreviation for the prefix "milli" (as in millimeter, meaning 1/1000th of one meter). The upper-case "M" is the international abbreviation for "Mega," meaning one million. "M" is also used to mean 1,048,576 (1K times 1K), as in "MB" or "MByte" or megabyte.

machine check handler (MCH) *n*. A feature that analyzes errors and attempts recovery by retrying the failing instruction. If retry is unsuccessful, it attempts to correct the malfunction or to isolate the affected task.

macroinstruction 1. *n*. An instruction in a source language that is to be replaced by a defined sequence of instructions in the same source language and that may also specify values for parameters in the replaced instructions. 2. *n*. In assembler programming, an assembler language statement that causes the assembler to process a predefined set of statements called a macro definition. The statements normally produced from the macro definition replace the macroinstruction in the program.

mail gateway *n.* A machine that connects two or more electronic mail systems (often, mail systems on different networks) and transfers messages between them.

mainframe *n*. A computer, usually in a computer center, with extensive capabilities and resources to which other computers may be connected so that they can share facilities. Originally referred to the central processing unit of a large computer, which occupied the largest or central frame (rack).

maintenance analysis procedure (MAP) *n*. A hardware maintenance document that gives an IBM service representative a step-by-step procedure for tracing a symptom to the cause of a failure.

maintenance services *n*. In SNA, one of the types of network services in system services control points (SSCPs) and physical units (PUs). Maintenance services provide facilities for testing links and nodes and for collecting and recording error information.

managed node 1. *n*. In Internet communications, a workstation, server, or router that contains a network management agent. In the Internet Protocol (IP), the managed node usually contains a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent. 2. *n*. In a Tivoli environment, any managed resource on which the Tivoli Management Framework is installed.

managed object 1. *n.* A component of a system that can be managed by a management application. 2. *n*. The systems management view of a resource that can be managed through the use of systems management protocols.

management services (MS) 1. *n*. One of the types of network services in control points (CPs) and physical units (PUs). Management services are the services provided to assist in the management of SNA networks, such as problem management, performance and accounting management, configuration management, and change management. 2. *n*. Services that assist in the management of systems and networks in areas such as problem management, performance management, business management, operations management, configuration management, and change management.

manager 1. *n*. Within IBM strictly defined to mean an individual who has other employees directly responsible to him or her. In recent years, the title has been adopted by people who lack direct reports but who believe they have a key responsibility.

mandatory entry field *n*. A field in which a user must enter at least one character.

mandatory-fill field *n*. A field a user must fill in completely or leave blank.

mapping *n*. The process of converting data that is transmitted in one format by the sender into the data format that can be accepted by the receiver.

markup *n*. The identification of the components of a document to enable each component to be appropriately formatted, displayed, or used.

markup language *n*. A notation for identifying the components of a document to enable each component to be appropriately formatted, displayed, or used.

mask 1. *n*. A pattern of characters used to control retention or elimination of portions of another pattern of characters. 2. *v*. To use a pattern of characters to control retention or elimination of portions of another pattern of characters.

master cryptography key *n.* In SNA products, a key used to encipher operational keys that are to be used at a node.

Maximize *n.* A choice that enlarges a window to its largest possible size.

Mb See *megabit*.

MB See *megabyte.*

M-bit *n*. More-data bit. In X.25 communications, the bit in a data packet that indicates that there is more data to follow in another data packet, when a message is too large for one packet.

Mbps *n.* Megabits per second.

mean time between failures (MTBF) *n*. For a stated period in the life of a functional unit, the mean value of the lengths of time between consecutive failures under stated conditions.

mean time to recovery (MTTR) *n.* For a stated period in the life of a functional unit, the average time required for corrective maintenance.

media access port *n*. A hardware-addressable component (such as a communication adapter) of a node that gives the node access to a transmission medium and enables data to pass into and out of the node.

medium 1. *n*. A physical carrier of electrical energy. 2. *n*. A physical material in or on which data may be represented.

Meg *n*. Megabyte.

megabit (Mb) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 220 or 1 048 576 bits. 2. *n.* For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1 000 000 bits.

megabyte (MB) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 220 or 1 048 576 bytes. 2. *n*. For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1 000 000 bytes.

memory *n*. All of the addressable storage space in a processing unit and other internal storages that is used to execute instructions.

memory leak *n*. A condition in which a computer program allocates memory and does not free (or properly free) this memory. If the program continues to run and is not terminated, it uses large amounts of real memory and eventually runs out of memory.

menu 1. *n*. A list of options displayed to the user by a data processing system, from which the user can select an action to be initiated. 2. *n*. In text processing, a list of choices displayed to the user by a text processor from which the user can select an action to be initiated. 3. *n*. A list of choices that can be applied to an object. A menu can contain choices that are not available for selection in certain contexts. Those choices are indicated by reduced contrast.

menu bar 1. *n*. The area near the top of a window, below the title bar and above the rest of the window, that contains choices that provide access to other menus. 2. *n*. In the AIX operating system, a rectangular area at the top of the client area of a window that contains the titles of the standard pull-down menus for that application.

merchant server *n.* In e-commerce, a Web server that offers cataloged shopping mesh network A network in which there are at least two nodes with two or more paths between them.

message 1. *n*. An assembly of characters and sometimes control codes that is transferred as an entity from an originator to one or more recipients. A message consists of two parts: envelope and content. 2. *n*. A communication sent from one person or program to another person or program. 3. *n*. In VTAM, the amount of function management data (FMD) transferred to VTAM by the application program with one SEND request.

message queue *n*. A set of messages that are waiting to be processed by a program or to be sent to a terminal, display, or workstation.

message switching *n*. The process of receiving a message, storing it, and forwarding it to its destination unaltered.

metadata *n*. Data that describes the characteristics of stored data; descriptive data.

metafile *n*. A file containing a series of attributes that set color, shape, and size, usually of a picture or a drawing. Using a program that can interpret these attributes, a user can view the assembled image.

metric *n*. In Internet communications, a value, associated with a route, which is used to discriminate between multiple exit or entry points to the same autonomous system. The route with the lowest metric is preferred.

metropolitan area network (MAN) *n*. A network formed by the interconnection of two or more networks which may operate at higher speed than those networks, may cross administrative boundaries, and may use multiple access methods.

Micro Channel architecture *n.* The rules that define how subsystems and adapters use the Micro Channel bus in a computer. The architecture defines the services that each subsystem can or must provide.

microcode 1. *n.* One or more microinstructions. 2. *n*. A code, representing the instructions of an instruction set, that is implemented in a part of storage that is not program-addressable. 3. *v*. To design, write, and test one or more microinstructions.

middleware *n.* A vague term that refers to the software between an application program and the lower-level platform functions.

MIDI See *Musical Instrument Digital Interface*.

migrate *v.* To replace a particular software component or system with another software component or system.

migration *n.* The installation of a new version or release of a program to replace an earlier version or release.

MILNET *n.* The military network that was originally part of ARPANET. It was partitioned from ARPANET in 1984. MILNET provides a reliable network service for military installations.

MIME See *Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions*.

minidisk *n*. In VM, a direct access storage device or a logical subdivision of a direct access storage device that has its own virtual device number, consecutive virtual cylinders (starting with virtual cylinder 0), and a volume table of contents (VTOC) or disk label identifier.

MIPS (*mipps*) *n.* A measure of computer processing performance that is equal to one million instructions per second.

MIP-burner *n*. A long-running program.

mirroring *v.* In the AIX operating system, the maintenance of more than one copy of stored data to prevent the loss of data.

mixed-character string *n*. A string that can contain characters from both a single-byte character set and a double-byte character set.

mnemonic *n*. A single character of a menu item or a button label, often the first letter, that represents a function and can be typed to select that menu item or button. The mnemonic is usually shown as the underlined character.

mobile *adj*. Pertaining to computing that is performed on a portable computer or a handheld device by a user who is frequently moving among various locations and may be using different types of network connections (for example, dial-up, LAN, or wireless).

modem (modulator/demodulator) 1. *n*. A functional unit that modulates and demodulates signals. One of the functions of a modem is to enable digital data to be transmitted over analog transmission facilities. 2. *n*. A device that converts digital data from a computer to an analog signal that can be transmitted on a telecommunication line, and converts the analog signal received to data for the computer.

module *n*. A program unit that is discrete and identifiable with respect to compiling, combining with other units, and loading; for example, the input to or output from an assembler, compiler, linkage editor, or executive routine.

monitor 1. *n.* A device that observes and records selected activities within a data processing system for analysis. Possible uses are to indicate significant departure from the norm, or to determine levels of utilization of particular functional units. 2. *n*. Software or hardware that observes, supervises, controls, or verifies operations of a system. 3. *n.* The function required to initiate the transmission of a token on the ring and to provide soft-error recovery in case of lost tokens, circulating frames, or other difficulties. The capability is present in all ring stations. 4. *n*. Software that monitors specific applications or the systems on which the applications rely. Monitors typically monitor information such as available disk space or application errors and compare the information to defined thresholds. When thresholds are exceeded, either system or network administrators can be notified, or an automated response can be performed. 5. *v*. In the NetView Graphic Monitor Facility, to open a view that can receive status changes from Tivoli NetView for OS/390. Problem determination and correction can be performed directly from the view.

motherboard See *system board*.

motion video *n.* In multimedia, video that displays real motion.

mount 1. *v*. To place a data medium in a position to operate. 2. *n*. To make recording media accessible.

mouse *n*. A commonly used pointing device that contains one or more buttons with which a user can interact with a computer system. For example, using a mouse button, a user can select objects or choices, initiate actions, or directly manipulate objects.

Moving Pictures Experts Group (MPEG) 1. *n*. A group that is working to establish a standard for compressing and storing motion video and animation in digital form. 2. *n*. The standard under development by this group.

MQSeries *adj*. Pertaining to a family of IBM licensed programs that provide message queuing services.

multicast 1. *n*. Transmission of the same data to a selected group of destinations. 2. *n*. A special form of broadcast in which copies of a packet are delivered to only a subset of all possible destinations.

multiple gateways *n.* More than one gateway serving to connect the same two SNA networks for cross-network sessions.

multiple-domain network 1. *n*. A network with more than one system services control point. 2. *n.* An APPN network with more than one network node.

Multiple Virtual Storage (MVS) See *MVS*.

multiplex *v.* To interleave or simultaneously transmit two or more messages on a single channel.

multipoint network 1. *n*. A network in which there are precisely two endpoint nodes, any number of intermediate nodes, and only one path between any two nodes. 2. *n*. In data communication, a configuration in which more than two terminal installations are connected. The network may include switching facilities.

Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) *n*. An Internet standard for identifying the type of object being transferred across the Internet. MIME types include several variants of audio, graphics, and video.

multitasking *n*. A mode of operation that provides for concurrent performance, or interleaved execution of two or more tasks.

multithread application program *n.* A VTAM application program that processes requests for more than one session concurrently.

multitiered application *n*. An application that is deployed on more than one physical machine. A client/server application is a common multitiered application in which there are two tiers: the client tier (for example, the presentation and the graphical user interface) and the server tier (for example, the service and the database).

Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) *n*. A protocol that allows a synthesizer to send signals to another synthesizer or to a computer, or a computer to a musical instrument, or a computer to another computer.

mutual exclusion mechanism *n*. In software, a method for preventing two separately executing pieces of code from interfering with each other's use of a particular data object. For example, if one thread is executing a function that modifies a shared data structure, the application may need to prevent other threads from simultaneously attempting to read the data before the modifications are complete.

MVS *n*. Multiple Virtual Storage. Implies MVS/390, MVS/XA, MVS/ESA, and the MVS element of the OS/390 operating system.

N

name resolution *n*. In Internet communications, the process of mapping a machine name to the corresponding Internet Protocol (IP) address.

name server See *domain name server*.

National Language Support (NLS) See *globalization*.

National Science Foundation (NSF) *n*. A United States government agency that is a sponsor of the National Science Foundation Network (NFSNET).

native network 1. *n.* The subnetwork whose network identifier a node uses for its own network-qualified resource names. 2. *n*. In MPTN architecture, with respect to a particular transport user, a transport network that provides the address type and transport characteristics assumed in the design of the transport user. No MPTN address mapping or compensation protocols are used for data transfer.

native node *n*. In MPTN architecture, a node with no MPTN capability.

navigate *v*. In the NetView Graphic Monitor Facility, to move between levels in the view hierarchy.

N-bit byte *n*. A string that consists of n bits.

nearest active upstream neighbor (NAUN) *n.* In the IBM Token-Ring Network, the station sending data directly to a given station on the ring.

needs of the business *n.* An undefined reason for not agreeing to something (as in: "No, you can't have five more headcount because of the needs of the business.").

negative response (NR) *n*. In SNA, a response indicating that a request did not arrive successfully or was not processed successfully by the receiver.

negotiable BIND *n*. In SNA, a capability that allows two half-sessions to negotiate the parameters of a session when the session is being activated.

neighbor *n*. A router on a common subnetwork that has been designated by a network administrator to receive routing information.

net it out *v*. To précis. A term used by some managers to denote a strong desire to bypass understanding of a proposed solution in favor of a simplistic quantification (as in: "Net it out for me.").

NetBIOS 1. *n*. Network Basic Input/Output System. A standard interface to networks, IBM personal computers (PCs), and compatible PCs, that is used on LANs to provide message, print-server, and file-server functions. Application programs that use NetBIOS do not need to handle the details of LAN data link control (DLC) protocols. 2. See *Basic Input/Output System*.

netname *n*. In SNA, the name used in conjunction with the server name to identify a resource on the network when it is shared..

net-net *v*. To summarize a 3,000-word presentation into less than 20 words (as in: "I need it net-net.").

network 1. *n*. An arrangement of nodes and connecting branches. 2. *n*. A configuration of data processing devices and software connected for information interchange. 3. *n.* A group of nodes and the links interconnecting them.

network adapter *n*. A physical device, and its associated software, that enables a processor or controller to be connected to a network.

network administrator *n*. A person who manages the use and maintenance of a network.

network analyzer 1. *n*. A device that simulates a network, such as an electrical supply network. 2. *n*. A network device that is programmed to monitor and analyze all traffic data that it receives on a LAN.

network application program *n.* In the IBM Token-Ring Network, a program used to connect and communicate with adapters on a network, enabling users to perform application-oriented activities and to run other application programs.

network architecture *n*. The logical structure and operating principles (related to services, functions, and protocols, for example) of a computer network.

network common carrier *n.* Any organization that offers packet-switched data networks to the

general public.

network computing *n.* The use of a scalable distributed computing infrastructure that encompasses the key elements of today's networking technologies, such as systems and network management; the Internet and intranets; clients and servers; application programs; databases; transaction processing; and various operating systems and communication protocols.

network congestion *n*. An undesirable overload condition caused by traffic in excess of what a network can handle.

Network Control Program (NCP) *n*. An IBM licensed program that provides communication controller support for single-domain, multiple-domain, and interconnected network capability.

network controller *n.* A concentrator and protocol converter used with SDLC links. By converting protocols, which manage the way data is sent and received, the IBM 3710 Network Controller allows the use of non-SNA devices with an SNA host processor.

network convergence *n*. The act of updating the topology database of all attached routing nodes to reflect the addition, deletion, or changes to the reachability and metrics of a network resource. The updating is accomplished through the exchange of topology messages.

network identifier 1. *n*. In TCP/IP, that part of the IP address that defines a network. The length of the network ID depends on the type of network class (A, B, or C). 2. *n*. A 1- to 8-byte customer-selected name or an 8-byte IBM-registered name that uniquely identifies a specific subnetwork. 3. *n*. In MPTN architecture, the address qualifier of a transport provider address that identifies a group of nodes according to the network in which they reside.

Network Information Center (NIC) *n.* In Internet communications, local, regional, and national groups throughout the world who provide assistance, documentation, training, and other services to users.

network job entry *n.* In object distribution, an entry in the network job table that specifies the system action required for incoming network jobs sent by a particular user or group of users. Each entry is identified by the user ID of the originating user or group.

network layer *n*. In Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) architecture, the layer that is responsible for routing, switching, and link-layer access across the OSI environment.

network management *n*. The process of planning, organizing, and controlling a communication-oriented data processing or information system.

network manager *n*. A program or group of programs that is used to monitor, manage, and diagnose the problems of a network.

network name 1. *n*. The symbolic identifier by which users refer to a network accessible unit, a link, or a link station within a given subnetwork. In APPN networks, network names are also used for routing purposes. 2. *n.* In a multiple-domain network, the name of the APPL statement defining a VTAM application program. The network name must be unique across domains.

network operator 1. *n*. A person who controls the operation of all or part of a network. 2. *n*. In a multiple-domain network, a person or program responsible for controlling all domains.

network operator console *n*. A system console or terminal in the network from which an operator controls the network.

nice to have *n*. A good idea but not absolutely necessary.

nit 1. *n.* A task, such as improving the user interface to a program, that has not yet been done and should be easy to do. 2. *n*. A minor error that is easily fixed.

node 1. *n*. In a network, a point at which one or more functional units connect channels or data circuits. 2. *n*. In network topology, the point at an end of a branch. 3. *n*. The representation of a state or an event by means of a point on a diagram. 4. *n.* In a tree structure, a point at which subordinate items of data originate. 5. *n*. Any device, attached to a network, that transmits and receives data. 6. *n*. An endpoint of a link or a junction common to two or more links in a network. Nodes can be processors, communication controllers, cluster controllers, or terminals. Nodes can vary in routing and other functional capabilities. 7. *n*. In VTAM, a point in a network defined by a symbolic name.

nonce *n*. A binary value that is not repeatable by a generating program over a long period of time. It can be a counter or a random value.

non-concur *v*. To formally state that one will not support the action (such as a product announcement) of another group. The ultimate threat. Grown men have been seen to cry when threatened with this.

nonescaping key 1. *n*. A key that allows a character to be typed without changing the imprint position. 2. *n*. A key that does not produce a character unless it is pressed in combination with another key.

nonnative *n.* In MPTN architecture, pertaining to the relationship between a transport user and a transport provider that are based on different transport protocols.

nonnative network 1. *n*. A subnetwork whose network identifier differs from the network identifier that a node uses for its own network-qualified resource names. 2. *n*. Any network attached to a gateway NCP that does not contain that NCP's resources. 3. *n*. In MPTN architecture, with respect to a particular transport user, a transport network whose addressing structure and transport service are different from that assumed in the design of that transport user.

nonsecure network *n.* A set of nodes that are not controlled by a single administrative party.

noodle *v*. To think or ponder. This verb sometimes is used as a synonym for *wordsmith* (see).

note *n.* e-mail correspondence in IBM (originally a "*PROFS* note"; now a Lotus Note).

notification 1. *n*. An unscheduled, spontaneously generated report of an event that has occurred. 2. *n*. In systems management, information emitted by a managed object relating to an event that has occurred within the managed object, such as a threshold violation or a change in configuration status.

nums *n*. Short for "numbers" (as in: "To make the nums" or achieve quota or a quantitative goal).

Nways family *n*. A group of IBM switched networking hardware products plus associated software.

O

object 1. *n.* In object-oriented design or programming, a concrete realization of a class that consists of data and the operations associated with that data. 2. *n*. An item that a user can manipulate as a single unit to perform a task. An object can appear as text, an icon, or both. 3. *n*. In Tivoli NetView for OS/390, the part of a NetView command that follows the verb. The object describes where the action of the verb is to occur.

object code *n*. Output from a compiler or assembler which is itself executable machine code or is suitable for processing to produce executable machine code.

octal 1. *adj*. Pertaining to a selection, choice, or condition that has eight possible different values or states. 2. *adj*. Pertaining to a fixed-radix numeration having a radix of eight.

octet *n.* A byte that consists of 8 bits.

OEM See *original equipment manufacturer*.

Off *n.* A choice that appears in the cascaded menu from the Refresh choice. It sets the refresh function to off.

offering *n*. A product release.

OfficeVision Series *n.* IBM's family of office application programs that can be used for office tasks such as creating, sending, receiving, and filing electronic mail.

offline 1. *adj.* Not online. 2. *adv*. Later, in private (as in: "Let's take that offline" when used by speakers of whom a question has been asked for which they do not know the answer).

offset *n*. The number of measuring units from an arbitrary starting point in a record, area, or control block, to some other point.

offsite meeting *n.* A meeting not held at an IBM site (facility). Meetings are held offsite either for pragmatic reasons or for emotional effect.

OK *n.* A push button that accepts the information in a window and closes it. If the window contains changed information, those changes are applied before the window is closed.

one-way communication *n*. Data communication so that data is transferred in one preassigned direction.

one-way conversation *n*. A conversation in which data is sent from one transaction program (the source) to another (the target) with no response requested and that is released after the data is sent. If the source TP terminates as soon as it releases the conversation, the data may still be in transit; thus, the source and target TPs are not necessarily active at the same time.

one-way message delay *n.* The time elapsed from the moment that a message is sent from its origin until it reaches its destination.

online *adj*. Of some peripheral device (e.g., printer) connected to, attached to, or controlled by a computer.

open 1. *n*. A break in an electrical circuit. 2. *n*. To make an adapter ready for use. 3. *n.* A choice that leads to a window in which users can select the object they want to open.

Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) *n.* A standard application programming interface (API) for accessing data in both relational and nonrelational database management systems. Using this API, database applications can access data stored in database management systems on a variety of computers even if each database management system uses a different data storage format and programming interface. ODBC is based on the call level interface (CLI) specification of the X/Open SQL Access Group and was developed by Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC), Lotus, Microsoft, and Sybase.

open door *v*. To skip one or more levels of management, usually to force the resolution of some individual grievance. From the "Open Door" program that allows an employee to escalate a grievance, even up to the Chief Executive Officer if necessary.

Open Shortest Path First (OSPF) *n*. In the Internet suite of protocols, a function that provides intradomain information transfer. An alternative to the Routing Information Protocol (RIP), OSPF allows the lowest-cost routing and handles routing in large regional or corporate networks.

Open Software Foundation (OSF) *n.* A nonprofit research and development organization whose goals are (a) to develop specifications and software for use in an open software environment and (b) to make the specifications and software available to information technology

vendors under fair and equitable licensing terms. For example, OSF developed the Distributed Computing Environment (DCE).

open source *adj*. Pertaining to software source code that is available to the general public and does not have licensing restrictions that limit use, modification, or redistribution.

open switch *n*. An unresolved issue.

open system *n*. A system whose characteristics comply with standards made available throughout the industry and that therefore can be connected to other systems complying with the same standards.

Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) 1. *n*. The interconnection of open systems in accordance with standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for the exchange of information. 2. *n*. The use of standardized procedures to enable the interconnection of data processing systems. OSI architecture establishes a framework for coordinating the development of current and future standards for the interconnection of computer systems. Network functions are divided into seven layers. Each layer represents a group of related data processing and communication functions that can be carried out in a standard way to support different applications.

Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) architecture *n*. Network architecture that adheres to that particular set of ISO standards that relates to Open Systems Interconnection.

open the kimono *v.* Revealing everything (or many guarded details) to someone.

OpenEdition *n*. Pertaining to the elements of OS/390 that incorporate the UNIX interfaces standardized in POSIX.

Operating System/Virtual Storage (OS/VS) *n.* A family of operating systems that control IBM System/360 and System/370 computing systems. OS/VS includes VS1, VS2, MVS/370, and MVS/XA.

operation *n*. In object-oriented design or programming, a service that can be requested at the boundary of an object. Operations include modifying an object or disclosing information about an object.

operator *n*. A person or a program that manages activities that are controlled by a specific computer program.

operator information area (OIA) *n*. The area near the bottom of the display area where terminal or system status information is displayed.

opportunity 1. *n*. A menial task or difficult assignment that a manager wants accomplished (as in: "I have an opportunity for you."). 2. *n*. Problem (as in: "We don't have problems, we have opportunities.").

optical reflective disc *n*. An optical videodisc that is read by means of the reflection of a laser beam from the shiny surface on the disc.

option set *n*. A set of functions that may be supported by products that implement a particular architecture. A product may support any number of option sets or none. For each option set supported, all functions in that set are supported.

Orchard, The *n*. The former corporate headquarters in Armonk, New York (the address of which was Old Orchard Road), built on the site of an apple orchard.

original equipment manufacturer (OEM) *n*. A manufacturer of equipment that may be marketed by another manufacturer.

OS/2 *n*. The IBM operating system for personal computers.

OS/390 *n*. The IBM operating system that includes and integrates functions previously provided by many IBM software products (including the MVS operating system) and (a) is an open, secure operating system for the IBM S/390 family of enterprise servers, (b) complies with industry standards, (c) is Year 2000 ready and enabled for network computing and e-business, and (d) supports technology advances in networking server capability, parallel processing, and object-oriented programming.

OS/400 *n*. The IBM operating system for the AS/400 system.

other-domain resource *n*. A representation for a logical unit that is owned by another domain and is referenced by a symbolic name, which can be qualified by a network identifier.

outbound *adj*. In communication, pertaining to data that is sent to the network.

overlay *n*. A collection of predefined data, such as lines, shading, text, boxes, or logos, that can be merged with variable data on a page while printing.

own *v*. To have responsibility for a product, project, process or data.

P

package 1. *n*. A collection of attributes, notifications, operations, or behaviors that are treated as a single module in the specification of a managed object class. Packages can be mandatory or conditional when referenced in a definition of a managed object class. 2. *n.* In recent years IBM has offered employees a series of early retirement and similar buyout programs intended to voluntarily reduce *headcount* (see). The terms and conditions of such offers are spelled out in a

document referred to as a “package” (as in: “I hear that they are going to be announcing a new package this fall.” or “Do you qualify for the package?”).

packet *n.* In data communication, a sequence of binary digits, including data and control signals, that is transmitted and switched as a composite whole. The data, control signals, and, possibly, error control information are arranged in a specific format.

packet internet groper (PING) 1. *n.* In Internet communications, a program used in TCP/IP networks to test the ability to reach destinations by sending the destinations an Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) echo request and waiting for a reply. 2. *n*. In communications, a test of reachability.

packet switching *n*. The process of routing and transferring data by means of addressed packets so that a channel is occupied only during transmission of a packet. On completion of the transmission, the channel is made available for transfer of other packets.

page 1. *n*. In a virtual storage system, a fixed-length block that has a virtual address and is transferred as a unit between real storage and auxiliary storage. 2. *n*. A printed form. 3. *n*. The information displayed at the same time on the screen of a display device. 4. *n*. In VSE, a fixed-length block of instructions, data, or both that can be located in processor storage or in the page data set on disk. 5. *v*. To replace the information displayed on the screen with prior or subsequent information from the same file.

palette *n*. A set of mutually exclusive, typically graphical, choices.

panel 1. *n*. A formatted display of information that appears on a display screen. 2. *n*. In computer graphics, a display image that defines the locations and characteristics of display fields on a display surface.

parallel 1. *adj*. Pertaining to a process in which all events occur within the same interval of time, each handled by a separate but similar functional unit; for example, the parallel transmission of the bits of a computer word along the lines of an internal bus. 2. *adj*. Pertaining to concurrent or simultaneous operation of two or more devices or to concurrent performance of two or more activities in a single device. 3. *adj.* Pertaining to concurrent or simultaneous occurrence of two or more related activities in multiple devices or channels. 4. *adj.* Pertaining to the simultaneity of two or more processes. 5. *adj.* Pertaining to the simultaneous processing of the individual parts of a whole, such as the bits of a character and the characters of a word, using separate facilities for the various parts.

parallel port *n.* An access point through which a computer transmits or receives data that consists of several bits sent simultaneously on separate wires.

parameter 1. *n.* A variable that is given a constant value for a specified application and that may denote the application. 2. *n*. In Common User Access (CUA) architecture, a variable used in conjunction with a command to affect its result. 3. *n*. An item in a menu for which the user

specifies a value or for which the system provides a value when the menu is interpreted. 4. *n*. Data passed to a program or procedure by a user or another program, namely as an operand in a language statement, as an item in a menu, or as a shared data structure. 5. *n*. In Tivoli NetView for OS/390, a part of a command's object.

parity bit 1. *n*. A binary digit appended to a group of binary digits to make the sum of all the digits, including the appended binary digit, either odd or even as preestablished. 2. *n*. A check bit appended to an array of binary digits to make the sum of all the binary digits, including the check bit, always odd or always even.

parse *v*. To analyze the operands entered with a command and create a parameter list for the command processor from the information.

partition *n.* A fixed-size division of storage.

password *n.* For computer or network security, a specific string of characters entered by a user and authenticated by the system in determining the user's privileges, if any, to access and manipulate the data and operations of the system.

Paste *n.* A choice that places the contents of the clipboard at the current cursor position.

patch *n*. A code change that is sent to the owners of a software product license after the release of a product. The licensees can then apply this code change to correct a reported problem.

path 1. *n*. A list of one or more directory names and an object name (such as the name of a file) that are separated by an operating system-specific character, such as the slash (/) in UNIX operating systems, the backslash (\) in Windows operating systems, and the semicolon (;) in OS/2 operating systems. The directory names detail the path to follow, in left-to-right order, to locate the object within the file system. This concept of path is also known asthe"pathname." 2. *n*. A list of directory names, usually separated by a colon (:), that are to be searched (in left-to-right order) to locate an object. This concept of path is also known as the "searchpath." 3. *n*. In a network, a route between two nodes. 4. *n.* In SNA, the series of transport network components (path control and data link control) that are traversed by the information exchanged between two network accessible units. 5. *n.* In VTAM, when defining a switched major node, a potential dial-out port that can be used to reach that node.

pattern-matching character *n.* A special character such as an asterisk (*) or a question mark (?) that can be used to represent one or more characters. Any character or set of characters can replace a pattern-matching character.

payment card *n.* In e-commerce, a credit card, debit card, or charge card (a) that is issued by a financial institution and shows a relationship between the cardholder and the financial institution and (b) for which a certificate can be issued from an authenticated certificate authority.

payment server *n.* In e-commerce, the electronic equivalent of a cash register that organizes and accepts payment for the goods and services selected for purchase. A payment server uses other components, such as a payment gateway and a payment management system, to complete the financial transactions.

Pb See *petabit*.

PB See *petabyte*.

PBX See *private branch exchange*.

PC 1. See *path control*. 2. See *personal computer*.

PC Card *n.* A credit-card-sized adapter that adds function to a mobile computing device. PC Cards can also be used with other personal computing devices that support them. This type of card was formerly called a PCMCIA Card.

PC network *n*. A low-cost, broadband network that allows attached IBM personal computers to communicate and share resources.

PDF See *Portable Document Format*.

peer *n.* In network architecture, any functional unit that is in the same layer as another entity.

pel See *picture element*

penalty box *n*. A temporary position of low esteem usually awarded for a perceived failure or misdeed.

people *n.* Non-managers (as in, spoken by a manager: “I have four people.”).

performance and accounting management *n*. The process of quantifying, measuring, reporting, and controlling the responsiveness, availability, utilization, and costs of an information system.

peripheral device *n*. Any device that can communicate with a particular computer; for example, input/output units, auxiliary storage.

peripheral host node *n*. A node that provides an application programming interface (API) for running application programs but does not provide SSCP functions and is not aware of the network configuration. The peripheral host node does not provide subarea node services. It has boundary function provided by its adjacent subarea.

permanent error *n*. An error that cannot be resolved by error recovery programs.

Personal Communications product family *n*. A group of IBM licensed programs that emulate 3270 and 5250 terminals and that run on several operating systems such as OS/2, DOS, and Windows.

personal computer (PC) 1. *n.* A microcomputer primarily intended for stand-alone use by an individual. 2. *n.* A desktop, floor-standing, or portable microcomputer that usually consists of a system unit, a display monitor, a keyboard, one or more diskette drives, internal fixed-disk storage, and an optional printer. PCs are designed primarily for stand-alone operation but may be connected to mainframes or networks.

pervasive computing *n.* The use of a computing infrastructure that supports information appliances from which users can access a broad range of network-based services, including Internet-based e-commerce services. Pervasive computing thus provides users with the ability to access and take action on information conveniently.

petabit (Pb) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 250 or 1 125 899 906 842 624 bits. 2. *n.* For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1 000 000 000 000 000 bits.

petabyte (PB) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 250 or 1 125 899 906 842 624 bytes. 2. *n*. For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1 000 000 000 000 000 bytes.

PF4 (*pee-eff-four*) *v.* To erase or destroy (as in: "I got that *note* and I PF4'd it.").

physical circuit *n*. A circuit established without multiplexing.

physical connection 1. *n*. A connection that establishes an electrical circuit. 2. *n.* A point-to-point or multipoint connection.

picture element (pel, pixel) 1. *n.* In computer graphics, the smallest element of a display surface that can be independently assigned color and intensity. 2. *n.* The area of the finest detail that can be reproduced effectively on the recording medium. 3. *n*. An element of a raster pattern about which a toned area on a photoconductor can appear.

PING See *packet internet groper*.

pipe *v*. To direct data so that the output from one process becomes the input to another process.

pipeline 1. *n*. A serial arrangement of processors or a serial arrangement of registers within a processor. Each processor or register performs part of a task and passes results to the next processor; several parts of different tasks can be performed at the same time. 2. *v*. To perform processes in series. 3. *v.* To start execution of an instruction sequence before the previous instruction sequence is completed to increase processing speed. 4. *n*. In Tivoli NetView for OS/390, a message processing procedure that consists of one or more programs known as stages.

piping *n*. A feature that allows the output of a program as it is displayed on the screen to be used as input to another program without reentering the data on the keyboard.

pit *n*. In optical recording, a microscopic hole in the information layer of a videodisc surface made by the recording laser beam. Recorded information is contained in the pits.

pitch 1. *n*. A presentation. 2. *v*. To present or attempt to persuade.

pixel See *picture element*.

pixel map 1. *n*. A three-dimensional array of bits. A pixel map can be thought of as a two-dimensional array of pixels, with each pixel being a value from zero to 2 to the power N -1, where N is the depth of the pixel map. 2. *n.* In the X Window System, a data type to which icons, originally created as bitmaps, are converted.

plaintext See *clear data*.

platform *n.* An ambiguous term that may refer to the hardware, the operating system, or a combination of the hardware and the operating system on which software programs run.

Plug and Play *adj*. Pertaining to the capability of a hardware or software component to be installed on a system with minimal effort and to be available for use immediately thereafter.

plug-in *n*. A self-contained software component that modifies (adds or changes) function in a particular software system. When a user adds a plug-in to a software system, the foundation of the original software system remains intact. The development of plug-ins requires well-defined application programming interfaces (APIs).

point *n.* A measurement of the IBM list price of a product, originally equivalent to a monthly rental of one U.S. dollar.

pointer 1. *n*. A data element that indicates the location of another data element. 2. *n*. An identifier that indicates the location of an item of data. 3. *n*. An online indicator that a user can manipulate with a pointing device to identify the target of an action.

pointing device *n.* An input device with which a user interacts with a computer. A mouse is one example of a pointing device.

point-to-point *adj* . Pertaining to data transmission between two locations without the use of any intermediate display station or computer.

polling 1. *n*. On a multipoint connection or a point-to-point connection, the process whereby data stations are invited, one at a time, to transmit. 2. *n*. Interrogation of devices for such purposes as to avoid contention, to determine operational status, or to determine readiness to

send or receive data. 3. *n*. In network management, the process by which a manager interrogates one or more managed nodes at regular intervals.

pop *v.* To remove an item from the top of a pushdown list.

pop-up menu *n.* A menu that, when requested, appears next to the object with which it is associated.

pop-up window *n.* In Common User Access (CUA) architecture, a movable window, fixed in size, in which a user provides information required by an application so that it can continue to process a user request.

port 1. *n*. A system or network access point for data entry or exit. 2. *n*. A connector on a device to which cables for other devices such as display stations and printers are attached. 3. *n*. The representation of a physical connection to the link hardware. A port is sometimes referred to as an adapter; however, there can be more than one port on an adapter. One or more ports are controlled by a single DLC process. 4. *n.* In the Internet suite of protocols, a specific logical connector between the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) or the User Datagram Protocol (UDP) and a higher-level protocol or application. 5. *v.* To modify a computer program to enable it to run on a different platform.

Portable Document Format (PDF) *n*. A standard specified by Adobe Systems, Incorporated, for the electronic distribution of documents. PDF files are compact; can be distributed globally via e-mail, the Web, intranets, or CD-ROM; and can be viewed with the Acrobat Reader, which is software from Adobe Systems that can be downloaded at no cost from the Adobe Systems home page.

position *v*. To explain or provide context (as in: “Let me position that issue for you.”).

post 1. *n*. In the AIX operating system, the action required to make a pop-up or pull-down menu appear. This action is normally a click or a button press on one of the mouse buttons. 2. *v*. To enter a unit of information on a record. 3. *v.* To note the occurrence of an event. 4. *v.* To add information to a record in order to keep the record current.

Post Telephone and Telegraph Administration (PTT) *n*. An organization, usually a government department, that provides communication common carrier services in countries other than the USA and Canada. Examples of PTTs are the Bundespost in Germany, and the Nippon Telephone and Telegraph Public Corporation in Japan.

PostScript *n*. A standard specified by Adobe Systems, Incorporated, that defines how text and graphics are presented on printers and display devices.

power suit *n*. The wardrobe worn by players within an organization. (In the mid-1980s, for example, this consisted of a dark blue three-piece pinstriped suit, a long-sleeved white shirt, a

striped “rep” tie, a black belt with an inconspicuous buckle, knee-high black socks and black *wing-tip* shoes.)

preannounce *v.* To announce something (usually a product) before it has been formally approved for announcement. In earlier years, this practice was strictly forbidden.

Printing Systems Manager (PSM) *n*. An IBM licensed program that applies print administration and management technology to a cross-platform, client/server print system. PSM provides a set of (a) printing functions for submitting and controlling print jobs and (b) systems management and operator functions to control print spoolers and print supervisors. PSM is based on the Palladium distributed print system.

private branch exchange (PBX) 1. *n*. An automatic or manual private telephone exchange for transmission of calls to and from the public telephone network. 2. *n.* A switching system located on a customer’s premises that consolidates the number of inside lines (extensions) into a smaller number of outside lines (trunks). Many PBXs also provide advanced voice and data communication features.

private key *n*. In computer security, a key that is known only to its owner.

private network *n*. A network established and operated by an organization or corporation for users within that organization or corporation.

problem determination *n.* The process of determining the source of a problem; for example, a program component, machine failure, telecommunication facilities, user or contractor-installed programs or equipment, environmental failure such as a power loss, or user error.

procedure 1. *n*. In a programming language, a block, with or without formal parameters, whose execution is invoked by means of a procedure call. 2. *n.* The description of the course of action taken for the solution of a problem.

process 1. *v.* To perform operations on data in a process. 2. *n*. In data processing, the course of events that occurs during the execution of all or part of a program. 3. *n*. A course of the events defined by its purpose or by its effect, achieved under given conditions. 4. *n*. Any operation or combination of operations on data. 5. *n*. A function being performed or waiting to be performed.

processing unit See *central processing unit*.

processor *n*. In a computer, a functional unit that interprets and executes instructions. A processor consists of at least an instruction control unit and an arithmetic and logic unit.

product number *n*. Sometimes called a machine number, the four digit number that identifies every major IBM hardware product. The numbers rarely have any relationship to each other but some sort of sequence sometimes may be followed (e.g., 3350, 3370, 3380 are all disk storage devices).

Professional Office Systems (PROFS) (*profs*) *n*. Professional Office System, a menu-based system providing support — such as e-mail, calendaring and document storage — for office personnel using IBM mainframes. See *OfficeVision Series*.

profile 1. *n*. Data that describes the significant characteristics of a user, a group of users, or one or more computer resources. 2. *n.* In a Tivoli environment, a container for application-specific information about a particular type of resource. A Tivoli application specifies the template for its profiles; the template includes information about the resources that can be managed by that Tivoli application. A profile is created in the context of a profile manager; the profile manager links a profile to the Tivoli resource (for example, a managed node) that uses the information contained in the profile. A profile does not have any direct subscribers.

PROFS Professional Office Systems. See *OfficeVision Series*.

program 1. *n*. A sequence of instructions suitable for processing by a computer. Processing may include the use of an assembler, a compiler, an interpreter, or a translator to prepare the program for execution, as well as to execute it. 2. *n*. In programming languages, a logical assembly of one or more interrelated modules. 3. *v*. To design, write, and test computer programs.

program manager *n*. A person who is a manager of a project or product or process but who has no people reporting directly to him or her.

program temporary fix (PTF) *n*. A temporary solution or bypass of a problem diagnosed by IBM in a current unaltered release of the program.

programmable workstation *n*. A workstation that has some degree of processing capability and that allows a user to change its functions.

protocol *n*. The meanings of, and the sequencing rules for, requests and responses used for managing a network, transferring data, and synchronizing the states of network components.

protocol boundary *n.* The signals and rules governing interactions between two components within a node.

proxy server *n*. A server that receives requests intended for another server and that acts on the client's behalf (as the client's proxy) to obtain the requested service. A proxy server is often used when the client and the server are incompatible for direct connection (for example, when the client is unable to meet the security authentication requirements of the server but should be permitted some services).

public key *n*. In computer security, a key that is made available to everyone.

public key cryptography *n.* In computer security, cryptography in which public keys and private keys are used for encryption and decryption.

public network *n*. A network established and operated by a telecommunication administration or by a Recognized Private Operating Agency (RPOA) for the specific purpose of providing circuit-switched, packet-switched, and leased-circuit services to the public.

pull *n*. A network operation that initiates an action by requesting the action from a resource.

push 1. *v*. To add an item to the top of a pushdown list. 2. *n*. A network operation that sends information to resources.

push button *n*. A button, labeled with text, graphics, or both, that represents an action that will be initiated when a user selects it.

pushback 1. *v*. To resist, dissent or disagree. Not all pushback is audible or visible, and often occurs below the threshold of formal *non-concurrence* (see). 2. *n*. The expression or manifestation of resistance, dissent or disagreement to a proposed plan, process or policy.

pushdown list *n.* A list constructed and maintained so that the next data element to be retrieved is the most recently stored.

put in place *v.* Complete (as in: "We've put a new process in place to handle that problem.").

Q

qdaemon *n.* A process that maintains a list of outstanding jobs and sends them to the specified device at the appropriate time.

queue 1. *n*. A list constructed and maintained so that the next data element to be retrieved is the one stored first. 2. *n.* A line or list of items waiting to be processed; for example, work to be performed or messages to be displayed. 3. *v*. To arrange in or form a queue.

quiesce 1. *v*. To end a process by allowing operations to complete normally. 2. *v.* To request that a node stop sending synchronous-flow messages.

R

RACF (*rack-eff*) See *Resource Access Control Facility*.

radio button *n*. A circle with text beside it. Radio buttons are combined to show a user a fixed set of choices from which the user can select one. The circle becomes partially filled when a choice is selected.

RAM See *random access memory*.

ramp *v*. To increase (as in: "We're ramping up production of that box.").

random access *adj.* Pertaining to a computer's process of reading data from and writing data to storage in a nonsequential manner.

random access memory (RAM) *n*. A temporary storage location in which the central processing unit (CPU) stores and executes its processes.

RAS *n*. Reliability, availability, and serviceability.

rated throughput *n.* For data links, the rate at which all of the offered frames are forwarded by the device.

reachability *n.* The ability of a node or a resource to communicate with another node or resource.

README file *n.* A file that should be viewed before the program associated with it is installed or executed. A README file typically contains last-minute product information, installation information, or tips on using the product.

read-only *adj.* Pertaining to data that can be read but cannot be modified.

read-only memory (ROM) *n*. Memory in which stored data cannot be modified by the user except under special conditions.

RealAudio system *n*. A client/server-based media delivery system developed by Progressive Networks. The RealAudio system supports live and on-demand audio over the Internet and can be used by news, entertainment, sports, and business organizations to create and deliver multimedia over the Internet.

realm *n*. In the WebSphere family of products, a database of users, groups, and access control lists. A user must be defined in a realm to access any resource belonging to that realm.

real time 1. *adj.* In Open Systems Interconnection architecture, pertaining to the processing of data by a computer in connection with another process outside the computer according to time requirements imposed by the outside process. This term is also used to describe systems operating in conversational mode and processes that can be influenced by human intervention while they are in progress. 2. *adj*. In Open Systems Interconnection architecture, pertaining to an application such as a process control system or a computer-assisted instruction system in which response to input is fast enough to affect subsequent input. 3. *adj.* Now, currently, without delay (as in: "The program provides real time results.").

reassembly *n.* In communications, the process of putting segmented packets back together after they have been received.

reception congestion *n*. A network congestion condition occurring at a data switching exchange (DSE).

recognition event *n.* A gathering to which employees may be invited as a reward for their achievements. Many recognition events are held *off-site* (see).

record 1. *n*. In programming languages, an aggregate that consists of data objects, possibly with different attributes, that usually have identifiers attached to them. In some programming languages, records are called structures. 2. *n*. A set of data treated as a unit. 3. *n*. A set of one or more related data items grouped for processing. 4. *n*. In VTAM, the unit of data transmission for record mode. A record represents whatever amount of data the transmitting node chooses to send.

recursion *n.* The performance of an operation in several steps, with each step using the output of the preceding step.

redirect *v*. To define or use a logical device name as a reference to another device or file that may be local or remote.

reduced instruction-set computer (RISC) *n.* A computer that uses a small, simplified set of frequently used instructions for rapid execution.

reentrant *n*. The attribute of a program or routine that allows the same copy of the program or routine to be used concurrently by two or more tasks.

register *n*. A part of internal storage having a specified storage capacity and usually intended for a specific purpose.

registered network ID *n*. An 8-byte name included in an IBM-maintained worldwide registry that has a structured format and is assigned to a particular IBM customer to uniquely identify a specific network.

registry *n*. In a Microsoft Windows operating system, a database that contains system configuration information regarding the user, the hardware, and the programs and applications that are installed. Windows operating systems reference the registry during operation.

reintegration *n.* In high-availability cluster multiprocessing (HACMP), the actions that occur within the cluster when a component that had previously detached from the cluster returns to the cluster. These actions are controlled by the event scripts and when necessary, by manual intervention.

relation 1. *n*. In a relational database, a set of entity occurrences that have the same attributes. 2. *n*. The comparison of two expressions to see if the value of one is equal to, less than, or greater than the value of the other. 3. *n*. In a relational database, a table that identifies entities and their attributes.

relational database *n*. A database in which the data are organized and accessed according to relations.

relative path *n*. A path that begins with the working directory.

release 1. *n*. A distribution of a new product or new function and APAR fixes for an existing product. Normally, programming support for the prior release is discontinued after some specified period of time following availability of a new release. The first version of a product is announced as Release 1, Modification Level 0. 2. *v*. In VTAM, to relinquish control of resources (communication controllers or physical units).

remote 1. *adj*. Pertaining to a system, program, or device that is accessed through a telecommunication line. 2. *adj.* Pertaining to computing that is performed at a location that is distant from a central site (such as the office location), usually over a network connection. The remote computing device may be stationary and nonportable, or it may be portable.

remote host *n*. Any host on a network except the host at which a particular operator is working.

rep *n.* Short for "Marketing Representative," IBM's primary human contact with the customer.

repeater *n*. A node of a local area network; a device that regenerates signals in order to extend the range of transmission between data stations or to interconnect two branches.

reset 1. *v*. To cause a counter to take the state corresponding to a specified initial number. 2. *v*. To put all or part of a data processing device back into a prescribed state. 3. *n*. On a virtual circuit, reinitialization of data flow control. At reset, all data in transit are eliminated.

resident *adj.* Pertaining to computer programs or data while they remain on a particular storage device.

resource 1. *n*. Any facility of a computing system or operating system required by a job or task, and including main storage, input/output devices, the processing unit, data sets, and control or processing programs. 2. *n*. In Tivoli NetView for OS/390, any hardware or software that provides function to the network.

Resource Access Control Facility (RACF) *n.* An IBM licensed program that provides access control by identifying users to the system; verifying users of the system; authorizing access to protected resources; logging detected, unauthorized attempts to enter the system; and logging detected accesses to protected resources. RACF is included in OS/390 Security Server and is also available as a separate program for the MVS and VM environments.

response time 1. *n*. The elapsed time between the end of an inquiry or demand on a computer system and the beginning of the response; for example, the length of time between an indication of the end of an inquiry and the display of the first character of the response at a user terminal. 2. *n*. For response time monitoring, the time from the activation of a transaction until a response is received, according to the response time definition coded in the performance class.

return code 1. *n*. A code used to influence the execution of succeeding instructions. 2. *n*. A value returned to a program to indicate the results of an operation requested by that program.

RFA (*ar-ef-ay*) *n*. Request For Announcement. The primary, formal, document that is at the core of the announcement process and product release (as in: "We're looking at an RFA in the third quarter.").

RGB 1. *n*. Color coding in which the brightness of the additive primary colors of light, red, green, and blue, are specified as three distinct values of white light. 2. *adj.* Pertaining to a color display that accepts signals representing red, green, and blue.

ring network 1. *n*. A network in which every node has exactly two branches connected to it and in which there are exactly two paths between any two nodes. 2. *n.* A network configuration in which devices are connected by unidirectional transmission links to form a closed path.

road show *n*. The delivery of presentations, product demonstrations and similar materials to customers and others in a series of venues outside of headquarters.

roll out 1. *v*. To deliver or announce a product or series of products or to make a series of announcements on a given issue or topic. 2. *n*. The event or events at which such an announcement is made.

ROM See *read-only memory.*

root directory *n.* The highest level directory in a hierarchical file system.

root user *n*. In the UNIX operating system, a user who has superuser authority.

rotating *adj*. In high-availability cluster multiprocessing (HACMP), pertaining to a cluster configuration in which the cluster node with the highest priority for a particular resource acquires the resource if the primary node fails and retains the resource even upon reintegration of the primary node into the cluster.

round-trip message delay *n.* The sum of the one-way message delays from the origin to the destination and back, not including application processing time.

route 1. *n*. An ordered sequence of nodes and transmission groups (TGs) that represent a path from an origin node to a destination node traversed by the traffic exchanged between them. 2. *n*. The path that network traffic uses to get from source to destination.

router 1. *n*. A computer that determines the path of network traffic flow. The path selection is made from several paths based on information obtained from specific protocols, algorithms that attempt to identify the shortest or best path, and other criteria such as metrics or protocol-specific destination addresses. 2. *n.* An attaching device that connects two LAN segments, which use

similar or different architectures, at the reference model network layer. 3. *n*. In OSI terminology, a function that determines a path by which an entity can be reached.

routine *n*. A program, or part of a program, that may have some general or frequent use.

routing 1. *n.* The process of determining the path to be used for transmission of a message over a network. 2. *n*. The assignment of the path by which a message is to reach its destination. 3. *n*. In SNA, the forwarding of a message unit along a particular path through a network, as determined by parameters carried in the message unit, such as the destination network address in a tansmission header.

RS/6000 *n*. A family of workstations and servers based on IBM's POWER architecture. They are primarily designed for running multiuser numerical computing applications that use the AIX operating system.

run time *n.* The time period during which a computer program is executing. A run-time environment is an execution environment.

Rusty Bucket *n*. An IBM headquarters facility in Bethesda, Maryland; often shortened to "The Bucket."

S

S/390 *n.* The family of IBM enterprise servers that demonstrate outstanding reliability, availability, scalability, security, and capacity in today's network computing environments.

scalable *adj*. Pertaining to the capability of a system to adapt readily to a greater or lesser intensity of use, volume, or demand. For example, a scalable system can efficiently adapt to work with larger or smaller networks performing tasks of varying complexity.

scan code *n*. A code that the keyboard generates when a key is pressed. Every key on a keyboard has a unique scan code associated with it.

scanner 1. *n*. A device that examines a spatial pattern one part after another, and generates analog or digital signals corresponding to the pattern. Scanners are often used in mark sensing, pattern recognition, or character recognition. 2. *n*. For the 3725 communication controller, a processor dedicated to controlling a small number of telecommunication lines. It provides the connection between the line interface coupler hardware and the central control unit. 3. *n.* In a Tivoli environment, the software installed on each PC managed node that is to be scanned by Tivoli Inventory.

scheduler *n*. A computer program designed to perform functions such as scheduling, initiation, and termination of jobs.

screen 1. *n*. The physical surface of a display device upon which information is shown to users.

2. *n*. Obsolete term for display panel.

script 1. *n*. A computer program that is interpreted.

scroll *v*. To move a display image vertically or horizontally to view data that otherwise cannot be observed within the boundaries of the display screen.

scroll bar *n.* A window component that shows a user that more information is available in a particular direction and can be scrolled into view. Scroll bars can be either horizontal or vertical.

seat *n*. A slang term that refers to the number of licensed users of a software product, which is the same as the number of installations of the product. For example, if there were 100 Lotus Notes seats, there would be 100 licensed users of Lotus Notes (or 100 installations of Lotus Notes).

secure network *n*. A set of nodes that are controlled by a single administrative party.

segment 1. *n*. A portion of a computer program that may be executed without the entire computer program being resident in main storage. 2. *n*. A group of display elements. 3. *n*. A section of cable between components or devices. A segment may consist of a single patch cable, several patch cables that are connected, or a combination of building cable and patch cables that are connected. 4. *n.* In Internet communications, the unit of transfer between TCP functions in different machines. Each segment contains control and data fields; the current byte-stream position and actual data bytes are identified along with a checksum to validate received data. 5. *n.* In IMS/VS, the unit of access to a database; for the database system, the smallest amount of data that can be transferred by one DL/I operation. For input terminal operations using the DC feature, a segment is defined by the particular terminal type and is obtained by the application program with one call. 6. *n*. In the Enhanced X-Windows Toolkit, one or more lines that are drawn but not necessarily connected at the endpoints. 7. *n*. In LANs or WANs, a subset of nodes in a network or subnet that are connected by a common physical medium.

segmentation *n*. A process by which path control (PC) divides basic information units (BIUs) into smaller units, called BIU segments, to accommodate smaller buffer sizes in adjacent nodes. Both segmentation and segment assembly are optional PC features. The support for either or both is indicated in the BIND request and response.

semantics 1. *n*. The relationships of characters or groups of characters to their meanings, independent of the manner of their interpretation and use. 2. *n.* The relationships between symbols and their meanings.

semaphore 1. *n*. An indicator used to control access to a file; for example, in a multiuser application, a flag that prevents simultaneous access to a file. 2. *n*. An entity used to control access to system resources. Processes can be locked to a resource with semaphores if the processes follow certain programming conventions.

serial 1. *adj*. Pertaining to a process in which all events occur one after the other; for example, serial transmission of the bits of a character according to V24 CCITT protocol. 2. *adj.* Pertaining to the sequential or consecutive occurrence of two or more related activities in a single device or channel. 3. *adj*. Pertaining to the sequential processing of the individual parts of a whole, such as the bits of a character or the characters of a word, using the same facilities for successive parts.

serial port *n.* An access point through which a computer transmits or receives data, one bit at a time.

server *n.* A functional unit that provides services to one or more clients over a network. Examples include a file server, a print server, and a mail server.

servlet *n.* An application program, written in the Java programming language, that is executed on a Web server. A reference to a servlet appears in the markup for a Web page, in the same way that a reference to a graphics file appears. The Web server executes the servlet and sends the results of the execution (if there are any) to the Web browser.

session 1. *n*. In network architecture, for the purpose of data communication between functional units, all the activities which take place during the establishment, maintenance, and release of the connection. 2. *n.* A logical connection between two network accessible units (NAUs) that can be activated, tailored to provide various protocols, and deactivated, as requested. Each session is uniquely identified in a transmission header (TH) accompanying any transmissions exchanged during the session.

shell *n*. A software interface between a user and the operating system of a computer. Shell programs interpret commands and user interactions on devices such as keyboards, pointing devices, and touch-sensitive screens and communicate them to the operating system. Shells simplify user interactions by eliminating the user's concern with operating system requirements. A computer may have several layers of shells for various levels of user interaction.

shutdown *n*. The process of ending operation of a system or a subsystem, following a defined procedure.

signature *n*. In computer software, the name of an operation and its parameters.

sign off See *log off*.

sign on See *log on*.

sign-off See *logoff*.

sign-on See *logon*.

Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) *n*. In the Internet suite of protocols, an application protocol for transferring mail among users in the Internet environment. SMTP specifies the mail

exchange sequences and message format. It assumes that the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) is the underlying protocol.

simplex *adj*. Pertaining to printing on only one side of a sheet of paper.

single-byte character set (SBCS) *n*. A character set in which each character is represented by a one-byte code. Contrast with double-byte character set.

single-user *adj*. Pertaining to operations that are independent of another device, program, or system.

six sigma *adj*. High quality.

SNA See *Systems Network Architecture*.

socks protocol *n*. A protocol that enables an application in a secure network to communicate through a firewall via a socks server.

socks server *n*. A circuit-level gateway that provides a secure one-way connection through a firewall to server applications in a nonsecure network.

softcopy 1. *n*. A nonpermanent copy of the contents of storage in the form of a display image. 2. *n*. One or more files that can be electronically distributed, manipulated, and printed by a user.

Speak Up! *n*. A program that allows employees to make anonymous complaints or comments to management about any IBM-related subject.

speeds and feeds *n.* A presentation or document that is technically oriented.

spoofing 1. *n*. For data links, a technique in which a protocol initiated from an end station is acknowledged and processed by an intermediate node on behalf of the final destination. In IBM 6611 data link switching, for example, SNA frames are encapsulated into TCP/IP packets for transport across a non-SNA wide area network, unpacked by another IBM 6611, and passed to the final destination. A benefit of spoofing is the prevention of end-to-end session timeouts. 2. *n*. A hacker's technique of using someone else's IP address to gain access to a network.

spooling 1. *n*. The use of auxiliary storage as buffer storage to reduce processing delays when transferring data between peripheral equipment and computer processors. "Spool" is an acronym for "simultaneous peripheral operationonline." 2. *v*. Reading and writing input and output streams on an intermediate device in a format convenient for later processing or output. 3. *v*. Performing a peripheral operation such as printing while the computer is busy with other work.

SQL *n.* A programming language that is used to define and manipulate data in a relational database.

stack *n*. A slang term for the set of protocols that comprise TCP/IP. The preferred term is TCP/IP.

station *n.* An input or output point of a system that uses telecommunication facilities; for example, one or more systems, computers, terminals, devices, and associated programs at a particular location that can send or receive data over a telecommunication line.

status *n*. The condition or state of hardware or software, usually represented by a status code.

storage 1. *n*. A functional unit into which data can be placed, in which they can be retained and from which they can be retrieved. 2. *n.* The action of placing data into a storage device. 3. *n.* A storage device.

stream *v*. To send data from one device to another.

stream data format n. Data that has no record boundaries. The data is simply a stream of bits.

structured programming facility (SPF) *n*. An IBM product that is a full-screen editor.

Structured Query Language See *SQL*.

style sheet *n*. A specification of formatting instructions that, when applied to structured information, provides a particular rendering of that information (for example, online or printed). Different style sheets may be applied to the same piece of structured information to produce different presentations of the information.

subdirectory *n.* A directory contained within another directory in a file system hierarchy.

subsystem *n*. A secondary or subordinate system, usually capable of operating independently of, or asynchronously with, a controlling system.

sunset *v*. To withdraw support for a product or a range of products.

swap file *n*. A file that contains segments of a program or data temporarily moved out of main memory.

switch *n*. A node used to interconnect telephone or communication lines. For example, an ATM switch transfers cells from the entry communication line to the exit communication line.

synchronous 1. *adj.* Pertaining to two or more processes that depend upon the occurrence of specific events such as common timing signals. 2. *adj*. Occurring with a regular or predictable time relationship.

sysplex *n.* A set of MVS or OS/390 systems communicating and cooperating with each other through certain multisystem hardware components and software services to process customer workloads. This term is derived from "system complex."
system *n*. In data processing, a collection of people, machines, and methods organized to accomplish a set of specific functions.

system board *n*. In a personal computer (PC), the main circuit board that supports a variety of basic system devices, such as a keyboard or a mouse, and provides other basic system functions.

system configuration *n*. A process that specifies the devices and programs that form a particular data processing system.

system definition *n*. The process, completed before a system is put into use, by which desired functions and operations of the system are selected from various available options.

system slowdown *n.* A network control program mode of reduced operation invoked when buffer availability drops below a threshold level. The network control program limits the amount of new data that the system accepts while continuing normal output activity.

system-menu symbol *n.* A symbol (shaped like a Spacebar) in the leftmost corner of a title bar that gives a user access to choices that affect the window or the view it contains.

systems management 1. *n*. Functions in the application layer related to the management of Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) resources and their status across all layers of the OSI architecture. 2. *n*. The tasks involved in maintaining computer and communication systems, for example: changing configuration, identifying faults, securing access, accounting for resource usage, and analyzing performance.

Systems Network Architecture (SNA) *n.* The IBM architecture that defines the logical structure, formats, protocols, and operational sequences for transmitting information units through, and controlling the configuration and operation of, networks. The layered structure of SNA allows the ultimate origins and destinations of information (the users) to be independent of and unaffected by the specific SNA network services and facilities that are used for information exchange.

T

T1 *n*. In the United States, a 1.544-Mbps public access line. It is available in twenty-four 64-Kbps channels. The European version (E1) transmits 2.048 Mbps. The Japanese version (J1) transmits 1.544 Mbps.

tailgate *v.* To go through a badge-controlled door without using your own badge (from a Security perspective: bad behavior).

take *n*. A position in a discussion or argument (as in: “My take is we shouldn’t do that.”).

talk *n*. In the Internet suite of protocols, a protocol that allows two users on remote computers to communicate in a real-time fashion.

tap *v.* To use a stylus to interact with a handheld device.

task 1. *n*. In a multiprogramming or multiprocessing environment, one or more sequences of instructions treated by a control program as an element of work to be accomplished by a computer. 2. *n*. In a Tivoli environment, the definition of an action that must be routinely performed on various managed nodes throughout the network. A task defines the executables to be run when the task is executed, the authorization role required to execute the task, and the user or group name under which the task will execute.

task force *n.* A temporary group of experts and support staff appointed by management to solve some problem of perceived pressing urgency.

TCP/IP See *Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol.*

telephony *n*. The use or operation of systems for the transmission of voice or data communications between separate points.

teletypewriter exchange service (TWX) *n*. Teletypewriter service in which suitably arranged teletypewriter stations are provided with lines to a central office for access to other such stations throughout the U.S. and Canada. Both baudot- and ASCII-coded machines are used. Business machines may also be used, with certain restrictions.

Telnet *n*. In the Internet suite of protocols, a protocol that provides remote terminal connection service. It allows users of one host to log on to a remote host and interact as directly attached terminal users of that host.

temporary error *n*. A resource failure that can be resolved by error recovery programs.

tent card *n.* A rectangular card, folded down the middle lengthwise, on which a name is written to identify a participant at a meeting.

terabit (Tb) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 240 or 1 099 511 627 776 bits. 2. *n*. For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1 000 000 000 000 bits.

terabyte (TB) 1. *n*. For processor storage, real and virtual storage, and channel volume, 240 or 1 099 511 627 776 bytes. 2. *n*. For disk storage capacity and communications volume, 1 000 000 000 000 bytes.

terminal *n.* A device, usually equipped with a keyboard and a display device, that is capable of sending and receiving information.

terminal emulator *n.* A program that allows a device such as a microcomputer or personal computer to enter and receive data from a computer system as if it were a particular type of attached terminal.

thin client *n.* A client that has little or no installed software but has access to software that is managed and delivered by network servers that are attached to it. A thin client is an alternative to a full-function client such as a PC.

thread *n.* A stream of computer instructions that is in control of a process. A multithreaded process begins with one stream of instructions (one thread) and may later create other instruction streams to perform tasks.

threshold *n*. In software products, a value that defines a limit for a monitored condition. The monitored condition, the significance of the limit, and the particular software product's response when the monitored condition reaches the specified threshold vary widely according to product.

time stamp 1. *v.* To apply the current system time. 2. *n*. The value on an object that is an indication of the system time at some critical point in the history of the object. 3. *n*. In query, the identification of the day and time when a query report was created that query automatically provides on each report.

timeout 1. *n*. An event that occurs at the end of a predetermined period of time that began at the occurrence of another specified event. 2. *n*. A time interval allotted for certain operations to occur; for example, response to polling or addressing before system operation is interrupted and must be restarted.

title bar *n.* The area at the top of each window that contains the system-menu symbol, a small icon, a window title, and the maximize, minimize, and restore buttons.

Tivoli environment *n*. The Tivoli applications, based upon the Tivoli Management Framework, that are installed at a specific customer location and that address network computing management issues across many platforms. In a Tivoli environment, a system administrator can distribute software, manage user configurations, change access privileges, automate operations, monitor resources, and schedule jobs.

toggle 1. *adj*. Pertaining to any device having two stable states. 2. *adj.* Pertaining to a switching device, such as a toggle key on a keyboard, that allows a user to switch between two types of operations. 3. *v.* To switch between two modes; for example, on a personal computer connected to a network, to switch between the data entry and command entry modes or between stand-alone operation and terminal emulation.

token-ring network 1. *n*. A ring network that allows unidirectional data transmission between data stations, by a token passing procedure, such that the transmitted data return to the transmitting station. 2. *n*. A network that uses a ring topology, in which tokens are passed in a circuit from node to node. A node that is ready to send can capture the token and insert data for transmission.

toolbox *n*. In graphical user interfaces (GUIs), a container that provides a graphical way of grouping tasks.

top of the business *n*. The senior management of the company; sometimes specifically the Chairman of the Board (as in: "That issue was resolved at the top of the business.").

topology *n*. In communications, the physical or logical arrangement of nodes in a network, especially the relationships among nodes and the links between them.

touch base with *v*. To talk about something to someone who would expect to be informed.

trace 1. *n*. A record of the execution of a computer program. It exhibits the sequences in which the instructions were executed. 2. *n*. For data links, a record of the frames and bytes transmitted or received.

transaction *n*. A specific set of input data that triggers execution of a specific process or job; a message destined for an application program.

transaction code *n*. The first 1 to 8 characters of the first segment of a message sent to IMS/VS. The transaction code identifies the application program for which the message is intended.

transaction processing facility (TPF) *n*. A high-availability, high-performance system, designed to support real-time, transaction driven applications. The specialized architecture of TPF is intended to optimize system efficiency, reliability, and responsiveness for data communication and database processing. TPF provides real-time inquiry and update to a large, centralized database, where message length is relatively short in both directions, and response time is generally less than three seconds. Formerly known as the Airline Control Program/Transaction Processing Facility (ACP/TPF).

transceiver (transmitter-receiver) *n.* In LANs, a physical device that connects a host interface to a local area network, such as Ethernet. Ethernet transceivers contain electronics that apply signals to the cable and that sense collisions.

transcoding *n*. The process of filtering and reformatting content to tailor it for a specific network, device, or user. Transcoding considers the constraints of a particular network or device, as well as user preferences for information presentation, and enables the users of diverse networks and devices to access the same content in a manner that is suitable for each.

transfer mode *n*. Aspects covering transmission, multiplexing, and switching in a communication network.

transient error *n.* An error that occurs once or at unpredictable intervals.

transit time See *response time*.

Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) 1. *n* The Transmission Control Protocol and the Internet Protocol, which together provide reliable end-to-end connections between applications over interconnected networks of different types. 2. *n*. The suite of transport and application protocols that run over the Internet Protocol.

tree structure *n*. A data structure that represents entities in nodes, with at most one parent node for each node, and with only one root node.

trouble ticketing *n.* Problem tracking and control performed by a network operations center.

trunk *n.* In telephony, circuits that connect two switching systems, as opposed to connecting a customer line to a switching system.

tuning *n*. The process of adjusting an application or a system to operate in a more efficient manner in the work environment of a particular installation.

tutorial *n*. Information presented in a teaching format.

tweak *v*. To change in a small way.

U

unicast *n*. Transmission of data to a single destination.

uniform resource locator (URL) 1. *n*. A sequence of characters that represent information resources on a computer or in a network such as the Internet. This sequence of characters includes (a) the abbreviated name of the protocol used to access the information resource and (b) the information used by the protocol to locate the information resource. For example, in the context of the Internet, these are abbreviated names of some protocols used to access various information resources: http, ftp, gopher, telnet, and news; and this is the URL for the IBM home page: http://www.ibm.com. 2. *n*. The address of an item on the World Wide Web. It includes the protocol followed by the fully qualified domain name (sometimes called the host name) and the request. The Web server typically maps the request portion of the URL to a path and file name. For example, if the URL is http://www.networking.ibm.com/nsg/nsgmain.htm, the protocol is http; the fully qualified domain name is www.networking.ibm.com; and the request is /nsg/nsgmain.htm.

universal naming convention (UNC) *n*. In network computing, a name used to identify the server name and the network name (netname) of a resource. This name is in one of the following formats:
\\servername\netname\path\filename
\\servername\netname\devicename

UNIX operating system *n*. An operating system developed by Bell Laboratories that features multiprogramming in a multiuser environment. The UNIX operating system was originally developed for use on minicomputers but has been adapted for mainframes and microcomputers. The AIX operating system is IBM's implementation of the UNIX operating system.

up *adj*. Working normally (as in: "Is the system up?").

uplevel 1. *v*. To install a more recent version of a program. 2. *adj*. A more recent version of a program or document.

uplift *n*. An increment. Commonly used in pricing discussions.

upload 1. *v*. To transfer programs or data from a connected device, typically a personal computer, to a computer with greater resources. 2. *v*. To transfer data from a device, such as a workstation or a microcomputer, to a computer.

upstream 1. *adj*. In a network, pertaining to the direction from which data flows. 2. *adj*. In a hierarchical network structure, pertaining to the location of a network entity that is higher in the hierarchy. For example, a server is upstream from a client.

upstream device *n.* For the IBM 3710 Network Controller, a device located in a network such that the device is positioned between the 3710 and a host. A communication controller upstream from the 3710 is an example of an upstream device.

URL See *uniform resource locator*.

user 1. *n.* Any person or any thing that may issue or receive commands and messages to or from the information processing system. 2. *n*. Anyone who requires the services of a computing system.

user-application network *n.* A configuration of data processing products, such as processors, controllers, and terminals, established and operated by users for the purpose of data processing or information exchange, which may use services offered by communication common carriers or telecommunication administrations.

user profile 1. *n*. In computer security, a description of a user that includes such information as user ID, user name, password, access authority, and other attributes obtained at logon. 2. *n*. In Tivoli User Administration, a profile that is used to manage user accounts, including account information, home directories, startup files, and group membership.

userid (*you-zer-eye-dee*) *n*. A nickname that identifies a user to a computer system and other users.

V

Validation *n.* The checking of data for correctness or for compliance with applicable standards, rules, and conventions.

value 1. *n*. A specific occurrence of an attribute; for example, "blue" for the attribute "color." 2. *n*. A quantity assigned to a constant, a variable, a parameter, or a symbol.

value add *n*. An improvement in function or performance.

variable 1. *n*. In programming languages, a language object that may take different values, one at a time. The values of a variable are usually restricted to a certain data type. 2. *n.* A quantity that can assume any of a given set of values. 3. *n*. A name used to represent a data item whose value can be changed while the program is running.

vendor *n*. A company or person that either supplies a product or service to IBM or supplies something to IBM customers.

version *n.* A separately licensed program that usually has significant new code or new function.

videodisc *n*. A disc on which programs have been recorded for playback on a computer or a television set; a recording on a videodisc. The most common format in the United States and Japan is an NTSC signal recorded on the optical reflective format.

video graphics adapter (VGA) *n.* A computer adapter that provides high-resolution graphics and a total of 256 colors.

viewport 1. *n*. A predefined part of the display space. 2. *n.* In the 3270 Information Display System, an area on the usable area of the display surface through which an operator views all or a portion of the data outlined by the window on the presentation plane.

virtual address *n*. The address of a location in virtual storage. A virtual address must be translated into a real address in order to process the data in processor storage.

virtual machine (VM) 1. *n*. A virtual data processing system that appears to be at the exclusive disposal of a particular user, but whose functions are accomplished by sharing the resources of a real data processing system. 2. *n*. In VM/ESA, the virtual processors, virtual storage, virtual devices, and virtual channel subsystem allocated to a single user. A virtual machine also includes any expanded storage dedicated to it.

Virtual Machine/Enterprise Systems Architecture (VM/ESA) *n*. An IBM licensed program that manages the resources of a single computer so that multiple computing systems appear to exist. Each virtual machine is the functional equivalent of a real machine.

virtual storage *n.* The storage space that may be regarded as addressable main storage by the user of a computer system in which virtual addresses are mapped into real addresses. The size of virtual storage is limited by the addressing scheme of the computer system and by the amount of auxiliary storage available, not by the actual number of main storage locations.

Virtual Telecommunications Access Method (VTAM) *n.* IBM software that controls communication and the flow of data in an SNA network by providing the SNA application programming interfaces and SNA networking functions. An SNA network includes subarea networking, Advanced Peer-to-Peer Networking (APPN), and High-Performance Routing (HPR). Beginning with Release 5 of the OS/390 operating system, the VTAM for MVS/ESA function was included in Communications Server for OS/390; this function is called Communications Server for OS/390 - SNA Services.

visibility *n.* Kudos, importance (as in: "This project has very high visibility.").

visionary *n*. Someone who reads outside literature.

VM See *virtual machine*.

VM/ESA See *Virtual Machine/Enterprise Systems Architecture*.

volatile storage *n*. A storage device whose contents are lost when power is cut off.

VTAM See *Virtual Telecommunications Access Method*.

W

WAIS Wide Area Information Service. *n*. A network information system that enables clients to search documents on the World Wide Web.

wallet *n*. Software that enables a user to make approved payments to authenticated merchants over public networks and to manage payment card accounts and purchases.

WAN See *wide area network*.

warm fuzzies *n.* The kind of feeling employees receive when they think they are proceeding in the right direction or when their manager is treating them well. This state of mind is usually of short duration.

warm start 1. *n*. The start of a database management system with preprocessing of before-images. 2. *n*. A restart that allows reuse of previously initialized input and output work queues.

Web See *World Wide Web*.

Web browser *n*. A client program that initiates requests to a Web server and displays the information that the server returns.

webmaster *n.* The person who is ultimately responsible for managing and maintaining a particular Web site.

Web page *n.* Any document that can be accessed by a uniform resource locator (URL) on the World Wide Web.

Web server *n*. A server that is connected to the Internet and is dedicated to serving Web pages.

Web site *n*. A Web server that is managed by a single entity (an organization or an individual) and contains information in hypertext for its users, often including hypertext links to other Web sites. Each Web site has a home page. In a uniform resource locator (URL), the Web site is indicated by the fully qualified domain name. For example, in the URL http://www.networking.ibm.com/nsg/nsgmain.htm, the Web site is indicated by www.networking.ibm.com, which is the fully qualified domain name.

WebSphere *n*. A family of IBM software products that provide a development and deployment environment for basic Web publishing and for transaction-intensive, enterprise-scale e-business applications.

well-behaved application program *n.* An application program that runs without disruption to the network.

wide area network (WAN) 1. *n*. A network that provides communication services to a geographic area larger than that served by a local area network or a metropolitan area network, and that may use or provide public communication facilities. 2. *n*. A data communication network designed to serve an area of hundreds or thousands of miles; for example, public and private packet-switching networks, and national telephone networks.

wideband See *broadband*.

wild duck *n*. A creative or technical person who does unconventional things. The term implies respect and an acknowledgment that many of that person’s ideas turn out to be valuable.

wildcard character See *pattern-matching character*.

window 1. *n*. A portion of a display surface in which display images pertaining to a particular application can be presented. Different applications can be displayed simultaneously in different windows. 2. *n*. An area with visible boundaries that presents a view of an object or with which a user conducts a dialog with a computer system. 3. *n.* In data communication, the number of data packets a data terminal equipment (DTE) or data circuit-terminating equipment (DCE) can send across a logical channel before waiting for authorization to send another data packet. The window is the main mechanism of pacing, or flow control, of packets.

wing-tiped warrior *n*. An experienced and proficient IBM Marketing Representative. A "wing-tip" is a style of dress shoe that has a wing-like pattern of dots punched in the leather on the toes.

WinSock application programming interface (API) *n.* A socket-style transport interface developed for the Windows family of operating systems.

wire fault *n.* An error condition caused by a break in a wire or a short circuit between the wires or shield in a cable.

wireless *adj*. Pertaining to communication that typically occurs over radio frequencies.

wiring closet *n.* A room that contains one or more equipment racks and distribution panels that are used to connect cables.

wizard *n*. A dialog within an application that uses step-by-step instructions to guide a user through a specific task.

wordsmith *v*. To create or edit a memo, letter, speech or other document with a word processor usually with a view to improve it or make it more acceptable to others. The phrase is usually used by people who do not write professionally (as in: "All it needs is a little wordsmithing.").

work space 1. *n*. That portion of main storage that is used by a computer program for temporary storage of data. 2. *n*. In Tivoli NetView, a container for a set of event cards that meet certain criteria.

work-around *n.* A technique suggested by an engineering or programming department for getting around a problem or bug until a more permanent repair can be made.

workstation 1. *n*. A functional unit at which a user works. A workstation often has some processing capability. 2. *n*. One or more programmable or nonprogrammable devices that allow a user to do work. 3. *n*. A terminal or microcomputer, usually one that is connected to a mainframe or to a network, at which a user can perform applications.

World Trade *n*. IBM's international business and organization outside the United States. In recent years, this area of the world has been referred to as "the geographies."

World Wide Web (WWW) *n*. A network of servers that contain programs and files. Many of the files contain hypertext links to other documents available through the network.

wrap *v.* In general, to go from the maximum to the minimum in computer storage. For example, the continuation of an operation from the maximum value in storage to the first minimal value.

write access *n*. In computer security, permission to write to an object.

X

XEDIT *n*. The CMS facility that enables a user to create, change, and manipulate CMS files.

Y

Y2K See *Year 2000 challenge*.

Year 2000 challenge *n*. A term used especially by the computer industry to refer to the problems, challenges, and issues involved in preparing computer systems and applications for transition to, and operation in, the twenty-first century.

Z

zoom *v*. In a user interface, to progressively increase or decrease the size of a part of an image on a screen or in a window.

Z time Abbreviation for Zulu time. See *coordinated universal time*.

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