Computer graphics has become an everyday tool for an engineer, scientist, and technician. Only within the last year or so has the business community demonstrated a real interest in computer graphics for their requirements. While the technically trained person had no difficulty accepting that a picture was worth a thousand words, the businessman often didn't trust pictures and felt more confident with his tabular data. Many of these attitudes are changing with the introduction of both hardware and software oriented towards business requirements. This panel will discuss a number of topics relating to computer graphics and business, hardware, software, system, and user attitudes.

Business Graphics

This term covers charts and graphs that represent economic statistics and which are generally used by managers in both in the public and private sectors. In particular, business visualisation is used in analysis, to extract meaning from data, and for presentation, to explain data to an audience. The use of images in economics considerably predates the computer age

, but of course computers enable the production of many kinds of highly effective and colourful charts from raw data in seconds; as a result a thriving market in presentation software exists (see the section on Presentation Packages in the chapter on Graphics Packages).

**Business**

Graphics are commonly used in [business](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Business) and [economics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economics) to create financial charts and tables. The term *Business Graphics* came into use in the late 1970s, when personal computers became capable of drawing graphs and charts instead of using a tabular format. Business Graphics can be used to highlight changes over a period of time.

Sophisticated systems allow for the use of an unlimited range of colours and thousands of stored library images. Corrections and updates can easily be accommodated, because all information is stored on computer disk and can be instantly recalled.