Glossary Of Data Processing Terms

30 Apr 80

For best results be sure to follow the "see .." references to other definitions.

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=== A ===
ACCESS MECHANISM: Hands.
ACCESS TIME: A period during which you either make it or you don't.
ACCUMULATOR: The Internal Revenue Service.
ADDEND: Where you put on weight.
ADDER: A variety of snake. HALF-ADDER: A seriously wounded snake.
ADDRESS:
   ABSOLUTE - The one you get if she likes you.
   INDIRECT - The one you get if she isn't sure.
   RELATIVE - Where you wish your mother-in-law would go.
   BASE - Your Home.
ALGOL: 1) First part of a quotation ending in: "is divided into three parts." 2) A quoted language.
ALGORITHM: See PROCEDURE.
ANALOG COMPUTER: Machine to measure the timber in a virgin forest.
APL: A Puzzling Language.
ASCII: common spelling error for "Ask Me".
AUDIT TRAIL: what you don't want to leave behind.
AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING: Mechanical harvesting of BINARY TREEs (see) .
=== B ===
BASIC: The bleat of a sick sheep.
BASIC FOUR: 4.
BATCH PROCESSING: Girl asking single guy for a date.
BATCH TOTAL: Bureau of Census reports on unmarried men.
BINARY TREE: A tree that grows in the land of DATA (see).
BIT DROPPER: BINARY TREE in the fall (see BINARY TREE) .
BIT MAP: Geographical survey of a binary forest.
BLOCK: A child's toy.
BLOCK CONTROL: Protection racket.
BLOCK DIAGRAM: Simple instructions for a children's game.
BOOLEAN ALGEBRA: Algebra taught at Yale.
BUBBLE MEMORY: Trying to remember how much you drank Friday night.
BUFFER: Device under operator's console for shining shoes.
BUG: Influenza.
BURN IN: Cowboys branding cattle.
BURROUGHS: Where prairie dogs live.
BUS ADDER: A transportation merger.
BYTE: Former element of CORE MEMORY (see).

=== C ===
CARD DECK: Manual random number generator.
CDC: Constantly Down Computer.
CHARACTER: Someone interested in computers.
CHARACTER READER: A fortune teller.
   OPTICAL CHARACTER READER: A fortune teller with glasses.
CHECK ROUTINE: Paying end of the month bills.

CLOCK: A precision, large scale, analogue time indicating instrument.
CLOSED SUBROUTINE: what is done before a submarine dives.
COBOL: Two people having fun.
CODE: A respiratory ailment.
COLD START: Getting up in the morning.
COMMON LANGUAGE: Lack of linguistic class.
COMPUTER CENTER: D.P. magazine fold out showing computers with their covers off.
COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL: Censorship.
CONDITIONAL JUMP: See JUMP TABLE.
CONSTANT: Pertaining to criticism.
CONSULTANT: Person hired by the inexperienced to help them go wrong with confidence.
CONVERTER: An evangelist.
CORE: Part of an army.
CORE MEMORY: Apple memory after its been eaten; grows on BINARY TREES (see).
CROSS REFERENCE: An angry distinguished citizen.
CROSS TALK: Unwanted signals from your boss.
CRYOGENIC FILM: A sad movie on hygiene.
CURSOR: An angry programmer.
CURVE PLOTTING: Girl watching.
CYCLE: Half of a bi cycle.
CYCLIC CODE: A Friday and Monday respiratory ailment.
    === D ===
DAMPING: Keeping spirits from getting too high.
DATA: A country in Asia Minor noted for its dense binary forests and great reserves of random numbers
DATA CARRIER DETECT: Mail carrier in sight.
DATA GENERAL: Officer in the army of DATA.
DATAMATION: The art of finding a spouse.
DATAPOINT: Capital city of DATA (see).
DC: Location of the ACCUMULATOR and REGULATOR (see).
DEBUGGING: Making a hotel room safe for conversation.
DECADE COUNTER: A ten-year clock.
DECIMAL: Ten legged pack animal.
DECK: Part of a ship.
DECODING: Winter rest in Florida.
DETERMINANT: A stubborn insect.
DIAD: A Southern word, as in "He is diad."
DIODE: An elegy: TUNNEL DIODE -- Elegy to a miner.
DISK STORAGE: Spare parts department for surgeons.
DISK DRIVE: Campaign to collect rock-and-roll records for indigent teenyboppers.
DOUBLE PRECISION: Having ten fingers on each hand.
DOWN TIME: Shedding season for ducks.
DRIVER: The Lone Ranger's horse – "I/O Driver ... away!"
DUODECIMAL: A dozen ulcers in the upper intestine.
DUMP: A run down house.
    === E ===
ECHO CHECK: One that comes back.
EDIT: Consumed, as in "I edit."
EFFECTIVE ADDRESS: "Duffy's".
END AROUND CARRY: Sign of advanced obesity.
END FILE: A collection of obituaries.
ERROR RECOVERY: Confession.
EXCESS THREE: A rock 'n' roll group.
EXCHANGE: Contents of your pockets after you wife's been through them.
EXECUTION TIME: Dawn.

EXECUTIVE ROUTINE: Olives or onions for lunch.
EXTENDED BINARY CODED DECIMAL INTERCHANGE CODE: An easy way to represent decimal data. Example:
```
    DECIMAL    EBCDIC--
        5    11110101
```
   === F ===
FAULT: What programs never have.
FEASIBILITY STUDY: Market research for fixed fee contracts.
FEATURE: (1) A surprising characteristic of a program, occasionally documented. To call a PROPERTY a feature
       sometimes means that the programmer did not consider the particular case, and the program makes an
       unexpected, although not strictly speaking, an incorrect result (see PROPERTY). "That's not a bug, that's
       a feature!" A bug can be changed into a feature by documenting it. (2) A well-known and beloved property,
       a facility.
FERRITE CORE: A well trained group of small, furry, animals.
FIELD ENGINEERING: Plowing.
FIELD SUPPORT: Horse manure.
FIFO (FIFO): It's off to work we go.
FILE MAINTENANCE: Keeping abrasive tools abrasive.
FIXED WORD: Not gui1ty.
FLIP FLOP: A wisecrack that lays an egg.
FLOATING ADDRESS: Location where a pilot expects to find his aircraft carrier.
FLOATING POINT: Tip of an iceberg.
FLOPPY DISK: A record exposed to heat.
FLOPPY DRIVE: Speeding along a New Jersey road.
FONT: Small basin in computer room, containing holy water used to anoint computer during system failures.
FORMAT: Small rug used to wipe feet on.
FORTRAN: Military base under the flag of Random Numbers.
FRONT END: what you see in a mirror.
   === G ===
GA: A word of baby talk, as in "Ga ga do."
GE: Exclamation of surprise: "Ge, the system just died."
GANG PUNCH: A rumble.
GLOBAL SEARCH: "Where in the heck did I put my glasses?"
   === H ===
HARDCORE: Core Memory that's been flash frozen to keep its bits fresh.
HARDWARE: Brass Knuckles, Knives, Guns, Cudgels, etc.
HASH TOTAL: Measuring leftover beef and potatoes.
HASHING: Method of cooking potatoes.
HEX: Put on operators by programmers and Service Reps; also put on vendors by their customers.
HEXADECIMAL: Cursing on ten fingers.
HIGH ORDER: Memo from company president.
HIGH SPEED BUS: A contradiction in terms.
HOLLERITH: To yell 1oudly.
HONEYWELL: Reservoir for bees.
   === I ===
IBM: Itty Bitty Machine Corp.
IBMATED: Converted to IBM.
IBMCIDE: Replacement of IBM equipment with another manufacturer's.
IBMCRAFT: Programming for IBM.
IBMCRAT: Member of IBM management.
IBMCROME: Gray and Blue.
IBMDOX: worship of IBM.
IBMERY: School for IBMITES.
IBMESE: Variant of English used to write IBM manuals.
IBMFY: Converting to IBM (also IBMIZE).

IBMGRAPH: The writings of IBM.

IBMIBLE: Compatible with IBM.

IBMISM: Devotion to IBM.

IBMIST: One who practices the way of IBM.

IBMITE: Person working for IBM.

IBMOLOGY: The study of IBM.

IBMPHILE: Lover of IBM.

IBMPHOBIA: Fear of IBM.

INDEX: List of programs forbidden to devout Junior Programmers.

INDEX REGISTER: Convening a formal council for the placement of names on the master index (see INDEX).

INFINITE LOOP: See INFINITE LOOP.

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL: Dog fetching newspaper.

INTERFACE: Eating food.

INTERNAL CODE: when you feel bad all over.

INTERNAL STORAGE: The stomach.

INTERLOCK: Where the key goes.

INTERRUPT: Used to break up card game's between programmers and Service Reps.

IPL: Small red juicy fruit, used a lot in Mom's pies.

IRE: Anger.

ITEL: Self-professed Rat Fink.

ITERATIVE PROCESS: Repeating to get closer and closer to a desired objective.

   === J ===

JOB STREAM: A procession of prophets.

JUMP TABLE: See UNCONDITIONAL BRANCH.

   === K ===

KEYBOARD: New York Stock Exchange.

KILL: Urge felt when someone blasts your source file, destroying six hours of work.

KILOCYCLE: A thousand wheel bicycle,

   === L ===

LATENCY: Normal arrival at work.

LINK: A missing animal.

LOAD DOUBLE: Getting royally smashed.

LOGICAL OR: A smart, Cockney businesswoman.

LOGICAL SHIFT: A group of Vulcans working together.

   === M ===

MACHINE LANGUAGE: Jargon used by the System Rep, to impress the customer.

MACROCODE: Pneumonia.

MAIN MEMORY: Memory made in state of Maine.

MAINTENANCE MANUAL: A Mexican handyman.

MARGINAL CHECKING: Checks written before pay day.

MASS STORAGE: A girdle.

MATRIX: Leftover April Fool's Day pranks.

MEMOREX: Remembering yesterdays breakfast (see "X"),

MEMORY DUMP: Nostalgic shanty.

MICROCODE: A sniffle.

MINUEND: 18'th Century dance.

MNEMONIC: A hard to remember term used to describe a hard to remember symbols that represent harder to remember
       codes.

MOHAWK DATA SCIENCES: Tribe of technological Indians living in the wilds of DATA (see).

MS: One-thousandth of a woman.

MULTI-PROCESSING: Double Dating.

   === N ===

NCR: Neat Crash.

NON-VOLATILE STORAGE: Drums which have been emptied of gas.

NULL:
NUMBER SYSTEM: Prescribed methods for using fingers of the hands.
    BINARY--System based on using your hands with your fingers cut off.
    DECIMAL--System based on using all fingers on the hands.
    HEXADECIMAL--System for people with 8 fingers on each hand.
    OCTAL -- System based on using your hands with your thumbs cut off.
  === O ===
OBJECT PROGRAM: T.V. viewer reaction.
OFF-LINE: Failing a sobriety test.
ONE-SHOT: Bolt action gun.
ONE-WORD ARGUMENT: A brief encounter. DOUBLE_WORD ARGUMENT: A longer encounter.
ON-LINE: Passing a sobriety test.
OPERATING SYSTEM: Procedure for card players.
OPERATIONS RESEARCH: Nielsen rating on Ben Casey.
OPTICAL SCANNER: An eyeball.
OR GATE: Metal gate for Fort Knox.
OUTPUT DEVICE: There are two rooms of these on each floor, separated by sexes.
OUTPUT FILE: Trash Can.
OVERLAY: Producing too many eggs.
OVERSTRIKE: Prolonged Wildcat Strike,
  === P ===
PACK: Terse error message which is to be read as "You're Fired!"
PARAMETER: Approved method of counting paramours.
PARALLEL: Two letter "el"s.
PARALLEL OPERATION: Casey and Kildare on competing times.
PARITY CHECK: A farmers Christmas Club.
PATCH PANEL: Wives discussing children's clothing.
PDP: Three letters no one knows the meaning of.
PHYSICAL RECORD: Your medical history.
PLUG BOARD: A tired horse.
PL/I: People who Like one (1) language.
POINT: Something very hard to make.
    FIXED POINT--The opinion of your wife.
    FLOATING POINT -- The opinion of your boss.
    BREAK POINT--Discussing money with your wife.
    BREAK POINT SWITCH--The next minute.
PRIORITY LEVEL: Who gets to go to lunch first.
PRIVILEGED INSTRUCTION: Operation codes which don't have to perform if they don't want to.
PROCEDURE: See CONDITIONAL JUMP.
PROGRAM: Group in favor of a leading evangelist.
PROGRAM RELOCATION: When the customer scrounges time on someone else's computer while you test his.
PROPAGATE: Action taken when the hinge breaks.
PROPERTY: Euphemism for a problem or bug - "This program has some unusual properties".
PSEUDOCODE: Calling in sick when you're not.
PSW: Comment given when trouble disappears.
PULSE TRANSFORMER: Well stacked broad.
PURGE: Management shake-up.
  === R ===
RAM: A variety of mountain goat.
    ROM--A goat that did not make it's last jump.
RANDOM ACCESS: Promiscuous.
RCA: Rats.. Crashed Again!
REAL TIME: Length of a dance.
REFRESHMENT: Soft drinks.

REGISTER: What you do with a complaint.
REGULATOR: Congress.
RING: Optional function of some precision, large scale, time keeping devices.
RING COUNTER: Mercenary girl.
RING SHIFT: Indecisive man.
ROLL BACK: What you expect to get in the next race.
ROLL OUT: What you actually get in the next race.
RPG: Read/Print Garbage.
    === S ===
SCALE FACTOR: A way to estimate the length of a fish.
SEARCH AND DELETE: The Mafia has a contract out on you.
SEMI-CONDUCTOR: Man who runs a bus for midgets.
SENSE: What if we had more of would have kept us from doing this.
SEQUENTIAL PROCESSING: Salesman going down a phone book.
SERIAL: A breakfast food.
SERIAL PROCESSING: Eating breakfast.
SERVICE ROUTINE: Uniformed training after Boy Scout tour of duty.
SHIFT: A covering for PULSE TRANSFORMERS (see).
SIX BIT CHARACTER: A bum with seventy-five cents in his pocket.
SNOBOL: Something made in the winter.
SOFTWARE: Writs, subpoenas, summons, affidavits, briefs, laws (see HARDWARE).
SOLID STATE: Texas!
SOLID STATE DEVICES: Sure fire revenue producers, such as a sales tax.
SPERRY UNIVAC: Manufacture of one vacuum tube equipment from spare parts bins.
SPIKE: A sudden increase to REFRESHMENT power (see REFRESHMENT).
STALL INDICATOR: Indicates when it's time to recharge the battery.
STATE OF THE ART: California, where Mr. Linkletter lives.
SUBROUTINE: Peacetime anti-sub warfare.
SWITCH: The opinion of your wife.
SYSTEM: Indicates that "Horse race" program is being executed by shifty-eyed operator.
SYSTEM CHECK: Going to the races (see SYSTEM).
    === T ===
TELETYPE: "Type, you silly machine!"
THIN FILM MEMORY: Can't remember Fatty Arbuckle.
3M: Abbreviation for Campbell's Soup's jingle.
TIME SHARING: Adultery.
TIME SHARING SYSTEM: a process where one computer can abuse multiple users.
TRANSFER: Mink coat with rabbit base.
TRANSISTOR: A hypnotized relative.
      MESA TRANSISTORS -- A lot of hypnotized relatives.
TROUBLE SHOOT: what happens when a wedding doesn't come off.
TRUNCATE: what the crocodile did to the elephant when he was drinking.
    === U ===
UNCONDITIONAL BRANCH: See ITERATIVE PROCESS.
UNCONDITIONAL JUMP: A hiccough.
UNDEFINED JUMP: See MISSING ADDRESS.
UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE: Profanity.
UNSOLICITED INPUT: Junk Mail.
UPDATE: Girl with a second floor apartment.
    === V ===
VARIABLE WORD LENGTH: Stammering.
VDT: Herbal brew for curing a social disease.
VOLATILE MEMORY: A wife on her wedding anniversary,
    === W ===

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WAIT INDICATOR: Response to an INTERRUPT (see).
WORD WRAP: when you get too engrossed in the magic of your own language.
WORKING STORAGE: Digestion.
WRITE HEAD: Morning decision for two-faced persons.
   === X ===
X: Breakfast for mathematicians, as in "bacon and X."
XEROX: In modern mythology of DATA, the God Of Paper Work who lives in the hamlet of Triplicate on the Mountain Of
       Red Tape.
   === Y ===
Y: That's what we've been asking ourselves.
   === Z ===
ZERO SUPPRESSION: Absolute freedom.


                    end tj(ghglos)
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Let me give thanks to all those that helped add to this glossary from collage through my early work years. Unfortunately, my memory of those days is so full of parity errors that recall of contributer names is hopeless today. To help give a vintage feel the glossary is rendered in a retro-computing TrueType "Line Printer" font downloaded from http://fontsgeek.com/fonts/Line-Printer-132-Regular.

Assembled during the heyday of vintage computers today's cellphone welding youngsters may need explanations from those who lived in the dark "B.I" ages… "Before-Internet", when telephones came with wires, mice were something in the walls, and small computers filled a good part of a room. Back when IBM ruled over the Seven Dwarfs. Back then a gigabyte of disk spread over banks of disk drives on a mainframe computer. Where big computers might have six-megabyte of core memory, costing over $4Meg. But even the smallest computer could have used removable packs to get "unlimited off-line storage". And males dominated the industry.

Many terms herein refer to major technologies, companies, popular people, and products of the time. Amazingly some have survived to this day. As you read this keep Google open in one hand to put the definitions into historical context. This was the time IBM dominated around 65% of the computer industry, giving rise to the phrase "*IBM and the Seven Dwarfs.*" The "Data Processing" title is historic because at the time "Computer Science" majors were just getting started at a few select universities and had yet to get to Gilbert's first college where business "data processing" owned most of the machines. As you always satirize the ones you love, as general rule the greater the satiric disparagement the more the contributor personally favored the subject.

Way back when Gilbert duplicated a punched Hollerith card version of a glossary that was going around and printed on an IBM 1403 chain printer. Technologies that were every so popular at the time and now ever so abandoned. The second generation glossary lived on magnetic disk and 9-track tapes. In 2015-June a vintage 1980 printout on fan-fold paper was discovered and was promptly passed through an OCR, corrected for scan errors, then lightly edited. You hold the result in your hands. Enjoy... Gilbert can claim no copyright on this glossary.

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