



Glossary

of computing terms and abbreviations

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(Microsoft) Access /ˈæksɛs/ noun U [5] a database program developed by the Microsoft Corporation

account /əˈkaʊnt/ noun C [12, 13, 14, 20] a registration for a user of a network system. It is used for controlling access to the system.

active window /ˈæktɪv ˌwɪndəʊ/ noun C [7] the window in a WIMP system that is currently being used. It is usually on top of any other open windows.

address bus /əˈdres bʌs/ noun C [2] the set of conductors that carry the memory address signals between different parts of a computer system

ADSL /ˌeɪ diː es ˈel/ noun U [16, 23] abbreviation for asymmetric digital subscriber line. A form of DSL that has a different bandwidth for the upstream and the downstream.

AGP /ˌeɪ dʒiː ˈpiː/ noun U [2] abbreviation for accelerated graphics port. A video bus interface that allows the use of a fast video card and allows the use of three-dimensional graphics.

AI /ˌeɪ ˈaɪ/ noun U [3, 23, 24] abbreviation for artificial intelligence

algorithm /ˈælgərɪðm/ noun C [2, 9] a set of precise rules or instructions for solving a problem

Alt (key) /ˈælt, ˈɒlt kiː/ noun C [7] the alternative key on a computer keyboard that changes the function of the other keys when it is held down

ALT text caption /ˌælt, ˈɒlt ˈtekst ˌkeɪpʃn/ noun C [14] text displayed in a webpage as an alternative to a graphic when the facility for displaying graphics is not available or is switched off

AltaVista /ˌæltəˈvɪstə/ noun U [13] the name of a well-known search engine website

analogue signal /ˈænələɡ ˌsɪɡnəl/ noun C [11, 16] a type of signal that can take any value between a maximum and a minimum

analyst programmer /ˈænəlɪst ˌprəɡræmə(r)/ noun C [22] a person whose job is a combination of systems analysis and computer programming

anorak /ˈænərək/ noun C [20] a slang term for an eccentric socially inept person with little or no fashion sense and having an obsessive interest in a hobby or subject

anti-static /ˌænti ˈstætɪk/ adj [12] prevents the build up of static electricity

anti-virus (program or software) /ˌænti ˈvaɪrəs/ noun C/U [12, 19, 20] a computer program or set of programs

used to detect, identify and remove viruses from a computer system

Apple /ˈæpl/ noun U [25] the common name for Apple Computer Incorporated, a well-known producer of computers that introduced the WIMP interface on computers such as the Apple Macintosh

Apple Macintosh /ˌæpl ˈmækɪntəʃ/ noun C [6, 25] a family of personal computers produced by Apple Computer Inc.

applet /ˈæplət/ noun C [23] a very small self-contained computer program

application /ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃn/ noun C [3, 5, 6, 18, 21, 22, 25] see applications program

application layer /ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃn ˌleɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the only part of a network communications process that a user sees. It prepares a message for sending over a network by converting the message from human-readable form into bits and attaching a header identifying the sending and receiving computers.

application port /ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃn pɔːt/ noun C [12] a path available for a particular type of application data to enter or leave a network system

application service provider /ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃn ˈsɜːvɪs prəˌvaɪdə(r)/ noun C [8] a company that makes applications programs available over the Internet usually charging a fee for access to programs

applications (program or software) /ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃnz/ noun C/U [6, 8, 22] a computer program designed to be used for a particular purpose, e.g. a wordprocessor spreadsheet or database program

applications programmer /ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃnz ˌprəɡræmə(r)/ noun C [22] a person who writes applications programs using a computer language

architecture /ˈɑːkɪtektʃə(r)/ noun C [5] the general specification of a system

archive bit /ˈɑːkaɪv bɪt/ noun C [19] a digital bit stored with a file indicating if the file has been backed up since it was last edited

archiving system /ˈɑːkaɪvɪŋ ˌsɪstəm/ noun C [19] a system used for storing infrequently-used data in a way that does not provide the user with immediate access

artificial intelligence /ˌɑːtɪfɪəl ɪnˈtelɪdʒəns/ noun U [3, 21, 23, 24] an area of computing concerned with developing computer programs that perform tasks that can normally only be done using human intelligence

ASCII /ˈæski/ noun U [11, 18] acronym for American Standard Code for Information Interchange. A standard character encoding scheme.

ASP /ˌeɪ es ˈpiː/ noun C [8, 22] abbreviation for application service provider

assembly language /əˈsɛmbli ˌlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a low-level computer language that uses mnemonics rather than only numbers making it easier than machine code for humans to read and write

asymmetric /ˌeɪsɪˈmetrɪk/ adj [16, 23] having a different signal bandwidth in each direction, i.e. the bandwidth for sending is different from the bandwidth for receiving

asynchronous /ˌeɪsɪŋkrənəs/ adj [11, 12] not synchronised, i.e. occurring at irregular intervals

AT&T /ˌeɪ tiː ɒn ˈtiː/ noun U [6] abbreviation for American Telephone and Telegraph Company. One of the world's largest IT suppliers.

ATI (Technologies) /ˌeɪ tiː ˈaɪ/ noun U [17] the name of a well known company that produces computer graphics cards

ATM /ˌeɪ tiː ˈem/ noun C [2, 3, 16, 19] common abbreviation for automatic teller machine. The type of machine used by banks for enabling customers to withdraw money from their bank accounts.

authentication /ɔːθentiˈkeɪʃn/ noun U [18] a process that checks the identity of a user or an object

avatar /ˈævətoː(r)/ noun C [23] a graphical icon that represents a real person in a cyberspace system

B

B channel /ˈbiː ˌtʃænəl/ noun C [16] the common name for a bearer channel in an ISDN system

back up /bæk ˈʌp/ verb [5, 19] to store a copy of data on a storage device to keep it safe

backbone /ˈbækboʊn/ noun C [11, 15] the main transmission path handling the major data traffic connecting different LANs together

backend /ˈbækend/ noun C [14] the server part of a client-server configuration that provides a service on a network at the request of a client

backup /ˈbækʌp/ noun C [11, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25] the process of storing a copy of data on a storage

device to keep it safe / the term used for the copied data

bandwidth /'bændwɪð/ noun C

[8, 13, 16, 20, 23, 24] the range of frequencies that can be transmitted over a communications channel

barcode /'bɑ:kəʊd/ noun C [2, 3, 10, 23] a sequence of vertical parallel lines used to give items a unique identification number

barcode reader /'bɑ:kəʊd ˌriːdər/ noun C [10] an optical input device that uses the reflection of a light beam to read barcode labels

BASIC /'beɪsɪk/ noun U [22, 25] acronym for Beginners' All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code

batch mode /'bætʃ məʊd/ noun U [13] a process in which all the data is collected and processed together in a batch rather than one at a time as they become available

BBC micro /'bi: bi: si: 'maɪkrəʊ/ noun C [25] the name of one of the first microcomputers produced in the United Kingdom and used in schools. Its development was sponsored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

bearer channel /'beərə ˌtʃænəl/ noun C [16] the common name for the part of an ISDN line that carries the data

Beginners' All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code /'bɪˌɡɪnəz ə:l ˌpɜ:pəs sɪm'bɒlɪk ɪn'strʌkʃn kəʊd/ noun U [21] a simple high-level computer language often used for teaching programming

B-frame /'bi: freɪm/ noun C [9] the common name for a bi-directional frame in an MPEG compressed file

bi-directional frame /'baɪ dɪ'rekʃənəl, dɪ-, dər- 'freɪm/ noun C [9] a type of image frame used in MPEG compression. It is situated between I and P frames and stores the differences in the image compared with the I or P frame both before and after it.

binary /'baɪnəri/ noun U [5, 9] a number system that only uses two digits, i.e. 1 and 0

biometric device /'baɪəmetrɪk dɪ'vaɪs/ noun C [16, 19] a security device that measures some aspect of a living being, e.g. a fingerprint reader or an eye scanner

BIOS /'baɪəʊs/ noun C [15] acronym for Basic Input Output System. A part of the operating system stored on a ROM chip that controls the input and output of data to peripherals

biotechnology /'baɪəʊteknɒlədʒi/ noun U [24] the industrial application of biological science techniques

bit /bɪt/ noun C [2, 9, 11, 12, 13, 18, 23] a small unit of storage capacity. One of the eight binary digits that make up a byte. The term comes from an abbreviation of binary digit.

bitmap compression /'bɪtmæp kəmˌpreʃn/ noun C [9] a way of reducing the size of a stored image where different digital bits or collections of bits are used to describe each element of an image

(data) block /'blɒk/ noun C [11, 17] a collection of data stored together and treated as a single unit

Bluetooth /'blu:tʊ:θ/ noun U [23, 24] the name of a high-speed microwave wireless network system developed by a group of companies consisting of Ericsson, IBM, Intel, Nokia and Toshiba. It is used with portable equipment.

bookmark /'bʊkmɑ:k/ verb [13] to store a link to a webpage to make it easier to find in the future

boot /bu:t/ verb [5] to copy a part of the operating system into memory to allow a computer to start up

boot sector virus /bu:t ˌsektə 'vaɪrəs/ noun C [18] a self-replicating program that stores itself in the part of a disk containing the programs used to start up a computer

bracketing /'brækɪtɪŋ/ verb [11] to set the boundaries of a message or part of a message by marking its beginning and its end with special control bits

bridge /brɪdʒ/ noun C [11, 15] a hardware and software combination used to connect the same type of networks or to partition a large network into two smaller ones

broadband /'brɔ:dbænd/ adj [8, 16, 23] able to carry signals transmitted over a wide range of frequencies

broadcast /'brɔ:dkɑ:st/ verb [16, 19] to transmit signals that can be picked up by a large number of receivers

browse /braʊz/ verb [14, 16] to move from webpage to webpage using a Web browser program

(Web) browser /'braʊzə(r)/ noun C [7, 9, 13, 14, 17, 20, 21] a program used for displaying webpages

BT /bi: 'ti:/ noun U [24] abbreviation for British Telecom. The organisation that provides the telephone system in Great Britain.

buffering /'bʌfərɪŋ/ noun U [13] a process of temporarily storing data from a fast source so that it can be fed at a steady rate to a slower system

bug /bʌg/ noun C [6, 20] a fault in a system

bulletin board /'bʊlətɪn bɔ:d/ noun C [15, 16] an electronic noticeboard

system that enables users to display messages for other users to read

bus /bʌs/ noun C [2, 5] a set of conductors that carry signals between different parts of a computer

byte /baɪt/ noun C [2, 9, 11, 17, 18, 25] a unit of storage capacity. A byte is made up of eight bits and stores one character, i.e. a letter, a number, a space or a punctuation mark.

C

C /si:/ noun U [21, 22] a general purpose computer programming language that was originally designed for writing Unix systems programs

C drive /'si: draɪv/ noun C [10] the first hard disk in a personal computer

C++ /'si: plʌs 'plʌs/ noun U [5, 21, 22] an object-oriented superset of the C programming language commonly used for writing applications programs for the Microsoft Windows operating system

cache /kæʃ/ verb [2] to temporarily store frequently-used data in fast memory so that it can be accessed more quickly

cache /kæʃ/ noun C [2, 13] fast memory used to temporarily store frequently-used data to allow it to be accessed more quickly

cache coherency /kæʃ kəʊ'hɪərənsi/ noun U [2] a system that ensures that any changes written to main memory are reflected within the cache and vice versa

cache controller /'kæʃ kənˌtrəʊlə(r)/ noun C [2] the set of electronic logic circuits that control the operation of cache memory

cache hit /kæʃ 'hɪt/ noun C [2] the process of successfully finding the required data stored in cache memory

callback system /'kɔ:lɒk ˌsɪstəm/ noun C [19, 20] a system that automatically disconnects a telephone line after receiving a call and then dials the telephone number of the system that made the call to reconnect the line. It is used in remote access systems to make sure that connections can only be made from permitted telephone numbers.

cathode ray tube /kəθəʊd reɪ 'tju:b/ noun C [16] a display device that uses an electron gun to fire a beam of electrons at a phosphor-coated screen

CCNA /ˌsi: si: en 'eɪ/ noun U [22] abbreviation for Cisco Certified Network Associate. A starting level networking qualification offered by Cisco, a major network equipment vendor.

- CD (-ROM) (disk)** /si: 'di:/ noun C [1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 19, 22, 25] abbreviation for compact disk read only memory. A read only storage device in the form of a disk that is read using laser light.
- CD-ROM drive** /si: di: 'rɒm draɪv/ noun C [9, 11] a storage device for reading CD-ROM disks
- CD-RW (drive)** /si: di: a: 'dʌbl ju:/ noun C [2] abbreviation for compact disk rewritable. A storage device use for reading from and writing to a special type of CD known as a re-writeable CD.
- cellphone** /'selfəʊn/ noun C [23] the common name for a cellular phone
- cellular network** /'seljələ 'netwɜ:k/ noun C [16] a radio communications systems that divides a region into cells so that each region becomes a network with every point connected to a local transmitter within the cell
- cellular phone** /'seljələ 'fəʊn/ noun C [23] a cellular telephone. A mobile telephone that communicates with a local transmitter located within a small geographic area called a cell.
- central processing unit** /sentrəl 'prəʊsesɪŋ ju:nɪt/ noun C [6] the electronic processor at the centre of a computer. The term is sometimes used to refer to the combination of the processor and the main memory.
- channel** /'tʃænəl/ noun C [16, 23] a path for the transmission of data
- chat room** /'tʃæt ru:m/ noun C [12, 23] a virtual space on a website where on-line discussions organized around specific interests are held in real-time by users typing text messages
- check data** /'tʃek deɪtə/ noun U [17] information written to disks in a RAID system which is used to restore data if one of the array drives fail
- checksum** /'tʃeksəm/ noun C [11] a calculated value that is stored with data to detect any errors that may occur when the data is copied or transmitted
- chip** /tʃɪp/ noun C [1, 2, 5, 19, 23, 24] common name for a microchip. An electronic integrated circuit in a small package.
- Cisco** /'sɪskəʊ/ noun U [22] the name of a company that makes networking system hardware such as that used to operate the Internet
- class** /kla:s/ noun C [21] the term used for a collection of objects in object oriented programming
- cleanse** /klenz/ verb [3] a term used in data mining meaning to remove duplicate information and erroneous data
- (left) click** /kɪk/ verb [1, 7, 13, 14, 15] to press and release the (left-hand) button on a mouse
- client** /'klaɪənt/ noun C [6, 11, 15, 16, 18] a network computer used for accessing a service on a server
- client-server application** /'klaɪənt 'sɜ:vər ˌæplɪ'keɪʃn/ noun C [6] a program that is accessed from a client computer but most of the processing is carried out on a server computer
- clipart** /'klɪpɑ:t/ noun U [1, 15] professionally-prepared graphical images stored on a computer system
- Clipboard** /'klɪpbɔ:d/ noun U [7] the name used in Microsoft Windows for the section of memory that temporarily stores data while it is being copied and pasted
- clock** /klɒk/ noun C [2] the set of electronic circuits used to control the timing of signals and synchronise different parts of a computer system
- cluster** /'klʌstə(r)/ noun C [3] a term used in data mining meaning a group of data that has similar features or is based on a limited data range
- clustering** /'klʌstərɪŋ/ noun U [3] a method used in data mining that divides data into groups based on similar features or limited data ranges
- CMC** /si: em 'si:/ noun C [12] abbreviation for computer mediated communication, i.e. the transfer of messages using a computer system
- CNE** /si: en 'i:/ noun U [22] abbreviation for Certified Novell Engineer. A qualification aimed at people interested in installing and planning the rollout of Novell based networks.
- coax(ial) (cable)** /'kəʊæks/ noun C [16] a type of shielded cable for carrying signals. It is often used with radio frequency and video signals.
- COBOL** /'kəʊbəl/ noun U [5, 21, 22, 25] acronym for Common Business-Oriented Language
- code** /kəʊd/ noun U [16, 18, 21, 22] a piece of program text written in a programming language
- code** /kəʊd/ verb [21, 23] to write the text of a program or part of a program using a computer language
- COM program** /'kɒm ˌprəʊgrəm/ noun C [18] a DOS program with a .com filename extension that loads and runs in 64 kilobytes or less of memory
- command interpreter** /kə'mɑ:nd ɪn'tɜ:pɪtə(r)/ noun C [6] the part of an operating system that processes commands that are part of a program or are input using a keyboard
- Commodore 64** /kəmɒdə: 'sɪksɪ 'fɔ:(r)/ noun U [8] the model name of one of the first popular personal computers to be made available in the United Kingdom. It had a very good graphics system and was particularly suited to running computer games programs.
- Common Business-Oriented Language** /kəmən ˌbɪznɪs ˌɔ:rientɪd ˌlæŋgwɪdʒ/ noun U [21] a high-level computer programming language. It is the principal transaction processing language used to process the records of large organisations on mainframe computers.
- compatible** /kəm'pætəbl/ adj [6, 14] able to operate on the same type of system or run the same software
- compile** /kəm'paɪl/ verb [6, 22] to convert a program written in a high-level language into machine code using a compiler
- compiler** /kəm'paɪlə(r)/ noun C [5] a program that converts the whole of a program into machine code before the program is used
- compress** /kəm'pres/ verb [11] to reduce to a much smaller size
- compression (scheme)** /kəm'preʃn/ noun C [9, 11] the process used for reducing a file to a much smaller size
- computer** /kəm'pjʊ:tə(r)/ noun C [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25] a general purpose machine that can be programmed to process data in a variety of ways
- computer consultant** /kəm'pjʊ:tə kən'sʌltənt/ noun C [22, 25] a person who is paid to advise on computing system issues
- computer engineer** /kəm'pjʊ:tə ɛndʒɪˌniə(r)/ noun C [17, 22] a person who designs and develops computer systems
- computer lab** /kəm'pjʊ:tə læb/ noun C [19] a room full of computers used for study
- computer language** /kəm'pjʊ:tə ˌlæŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [22] a language used for writing computer programs
- computer operator** /kəm'pjʊ:tə ˌɒpəreɪtə(r)/ noun C [18] a person whose job it is to operate part of a computer system
- computer salesperson** /kəm'pjʊ:tə 'seɪlspɜ:sn/ noun C [22] a person whose job it is to sell computers
- computer science** /kəm'pjʊ:tə 'saɪəns/ noun U [5] the study of computers and their use
- computer services engineering technician** /kəm'pjʊ:tə ˌsɜ:vɪsɪz ɛndʒɪˌniəɪŋ tekˌnɪʃn/ noun C [22] a person who provides a service of maintaining and troubleshooting computers

computer-aided design /kəmˈpjʊ:tər ˈeɪdɪd dɪˈzʌn/ noun U [22] the process of designing using a computer program

computer-aided manufacture /kəmˈpjʊ:tər ˈeɪdɪd mænʃəˈfæktʃə(r)/ noun U [22] the process of manufacturing goods using a computer

computerised /kəmˈpjʊ:təraɪzd/ adj [21,22] changed so that it can be operated or controlled using a computer

computer-mediated communication /kəmˈpjʊ:tə ˌmɪdiətiːd kəmjuːnɪˈkeɪʃn/ noun C [12,16] a process of transferring messages using computers

computing /kəmˈpjʊ:tɪŋ/ noun U [5,22] the theory and practice of computers

computing science /kəmˈpjʊ:tɪŋ ˈsaɪəns/ noun U [22] see computer science

computing support /kəmˈpjʊ:tɪŋ səˈpɔ:t/ noun U [5,17,22] a field of work that provides a service including setting up, maintaining and troubleshooting computing systems and providing technical advice to users

computing support officer /kəmˈpjʊ:tɪŋ səˈpɔ:t ˌɒfɪsə(r)/ noun C [10] a person whose job it is to provide support to computer users including setting-up, maintaining and troubleshooting computer systems and giving technical advice

configure /kənˈfɪɡə(r)/ verb [12,17,22] to adjust the settings

connectivity /kəˈnekˈtɪvəti/ noun U [16] the characteristic of being connected

control bit /kənˈtrəʊl bɪt/ noun C [11] a data bit used to mark parts of a transmitted signal so that the transmission can be controlled, e.g. a 'start' bit marks the beginning of a character and a 'stop' bit marks its end

control bus /kənˈtrəʊl bʌs/ noun C [10] the set of conductors that carry the control signals between the Control Unit and other parts of a computer

corrupt /kəˈrʌpt/ verb [18] to damage in such a way that prevents normal use

cp /siː ˈpiː/ noun U [6] a Unix command for copying a file

CPU /ˌsiː ˈpiː/ noun C [2,5] abbreviation for central processing unit

crack /kræk/ verb [18,19] to break into a computer system in order to steal information or cause damage

crash /kræʃ/ verb [17,19] to fail suddenly and completely usually referring to the failure of a hard disk

CRT /ˌsiː ɑː ˈtiː/ noun C [24] abbreviation for cathode ray tube

Ctrl + Alt + Del /kənˈtrɒl plʌs ˌælt (ɒlt) plʌs dɪˈliːt/ noun U [10] set of symbols that signify pressing the

combination of the control-alternative and delete keys on a computer keyboard at the same time

cursor /ˈkɜːsə(r)/ noun C [2,10] a symbol on the monitor screen that indicates the point on the screen that is being used

cut and paste /ˌkʌt and ˈpeɪst/ verb [7] to remove some data from a file and temporarily store it in the computer's memory then insert a copy of the data in another position in the same or in another file

cyberbabe /ˈsaɪbəbeɪb/ noun C [23] a digital image of an attractive female that is used in programs on the Internet

cybernetics /ˈsaɪbəˈnetɪks/ noun U [23] the study of control and communication in animals and machines. It is used in the design of robots.

cyberspace /ˈsaɪbəspeɪs/ noun U [20,24] the combination of all the data on all the computer networks throughout the world accessed using the Internet

cyborg /ˈsaɪbəɡ/ noun C [23] a man-machine system or a person made superhuman by a machine or external system that changes the way the body functions

D

D channel /ˈdiː ʃʃænl/ noun C [16] the common name for a data channel in an ISDN system

data /ˈdeɪtə/ noun U [1,2,5,6,12,15,17,18,19,21,22,23] the information processed by a computer

data bank /ˈdeɪtə bæŋk/ noun C [23] a large collection of data that can be accessed by many users and enables them to copy or store data on a particular topic

data bus /ˈdeɪtə bʌs/ noun C [2] the set of conductors that carry the data signals between different parts of a computer

data centre /ˈdeɪtə ˌsentə(r)/ noun C [8] a facility for storing large amounts of information

data channel /ˈdeɪtə ʃʃænl/ noun C [16] the common name for the part of an ISDN line that carries signalling and supervisory information to the network

data communications /ˈdeɪtə kəmjuːnɪˈkeɪʃnz/ noun U [5] the transmission and reception of data signals using a communications network and appropriate protocols

data integrity /ˈdeɪtə ɪnˈtegrəti/ noun U [17,19] a measure of how resistant a system is to causing corruption in data while it is being stored or transferred

data mart /ˈdeɪtə mɑːt/ noun C [3] a storage system that archives large amounts of data in a way that makes it easy to access

data mining /ˈdeɪtə ˌmaɪnɪŋ/ noun U [3] a process of analysing a large amount of stored data to find new useful information

data stream /ˈdeɪtə striːm/ noun C [9] the flow of data

data warehouse /ˈdeɪtə ˈweəhaʊs/ noun C [3] a computing centre that provides a large collection of data gathered from different sources for data mining

database (program) /ˈdeɪtəbeɪs/ noun C [1,3,5,8,15,17,19,20,21,22,23,24] a type of applications program used for storing information so that it can be easily searched and sorted

data-delivery system /ˈdeɪtə dɪˈlɪvəri ˌsɪstəm/ noun C [12] a system for transmitting data from one computer to another

data-link layer /ˈdeɪtə lɪŋk ˌleɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that supervises the transmission. It confirms the checksum then addresses and duplicates the packets. This layer keeps a copy of each packet until it receives confirmation from the next point along the route that the packet has arrived undamaged.

date /deɪt/ noun U [6] a Unix and MS-DOS command for displaying the current date

debug /ˌdiːˈbʌɡ/ verb [21] to find and fix faults in a program or system

DEC VAX /ˈdek væks/ noun U [6] a range of computers produced by the Digital Equipment Corporation using their Vax range of processors

decipher /dɪˈsaɪə(r)/ verb [18] to change coded information into normal text

decision table /dɪˈsɪʒn ˌteɪbl/ noun C [21] a type of grid used in computer program design to show what actions should be taken by the program under different conditions

decision tree /dɪˈsɪʒn triː/ noun C [3] an AI technique used in data mining that separates data into subsets then further divides the subsets into smaller subsets until the subsets are small enough to allow the mining process to find interesting patterns and relationships within the data

decode /ˌdiːˈkəʊd/ verb [9] to decide what a program instruction means

decompress /ˌdiːkəmˈpres/ verb [9] to remove the compression, i.e. to expand to its original size

- decrypt** /di:'kript/ verb [11, 18] to recover the original text from an encrypted message
- defacing** /di:'feisɪŋ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves changing the information shown on another person's website without permission
- default** /di:'fɔlt, -fɔ:lt/ noun C [10] an initial setting that can be changed by the user
- denial of service attack** /di:'naɪəl əv 'sɜ:vɪs ə'tæk/ noun C [18] a type of computer crime that involves swamping a server with large numbers of requests
- desktop** /'deskɒp/ noun C [3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11] the main graphical user interface background screen that displays icons for other programs
- desktop (PC)/(computer)** /'deskɒp/ noun C [1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 22] a personal computer that is designed to be used on an office desk
- desktop application** /'deskɒp ,æplɪ'keɪʃn/ noun C [22] a computer program designed to be used on a desktop computer
- desktop organiser** /'deskɒp ,ɔ:gənəʊzə(r)/ noun C [1] a small computer providing a variety of tools for organising work, e.g. a calendar, to do list, diary, address list, calculator, etc.
- development life cycle** /di:'veləpmənt 'laɪf ,saɪkl/ noun C [5] the phases a software product goes through from when it is first thought of until it becomes obsolete. This typically includes: requirements analysis, design construction, testing (validation), installation, operation, maintenance and retirement.
- DHTML** /di:'eɪf ti:'em 'el/ noun U [22] abbreviation for dynamic hypertext markup language. A development of HTML that allows the creation of more dynamic and user-interactive web pages.
- dial-up networking** /'daɪl ʌp 'netwɜ:kɪŋ/ noun U [12, 17] a communications system that allows computers to connect together using a telephone line
- differential backup** /dɪfə'renʃl 'bækʌp/ noun C [19, 25] a type of backup that copies all the selected files on a system that have been changed since the last time a full backup was carried out
- digital** /'dɪdʒɪtəl/ adj [9, 11, 16, 18, 19, 23] an electronic system that has only two states, e.g. off/on
- digital camera** /'dɪdʒɪtəl 'kæməɾə/ noun C [1, 3, 5, 13, 23] an input device for taking pictures. It has an electronic lens and uses electronics for storing the images rather than chemical film.
- digital cash** /'dɪdʒɪtəl 'kæʃ/ noun U [19] electronic currency that is stored on electronically sensitive cards or exists in cyberspace and is used for making electronic purchases over the Internet
- digital certificate** /'dɪdʒɪtəl sə'tɪfɪkət/ noun C [18] an electronic message used to show a transaction is trustworthy. It contains information about the company processing the transaction including their public key and is electronically 'signed' by a trusted digital-certificate issuer.
- digital subscriber line** /'dɪdʒɪtəl səb'skraɪbə laɪn/ noun U [16] a broadband communications system that allows digital signals to be transferred across an ordinary analogue telephone line
- directory** /dɪ'rektəri, di-, daɪ-/ noun C [6, 19] a storage area used for grouping files so that they can be easily located. A directory is sometimes called a folder.
- disk** /disk/ noun C [6, 17, 19] a flat circular storage device
- disk drive** /'disk draɪv/ noun C [6, 17] a storage device for reading from and writing to disks
- divider** /dɪ'vaɪdə(r)/ noun C [10] a vertical bar that divides a Windows Explorer window into two parts. One part shows the drive folders and the other part shows the filenames of the files in the selected folder.
- DNS** /di:'en 'es/ noun C [13] abbreviation for domain name system
- domain name** /dɔ'meɪn neɪm/ noun C [15, 20] an identifier used on the Internet in place of the numerical Internet address. It identifies the host, the type and the country code, e.g. holyrood.ed.ac.uk
- domain name server** /dɔ'meɪn neɪm ,sɜ:və(r)/ noun C [13] a network server computer used for operating and controlling the domain name system
- domain name system** /dɔ'meɪn neɪm ,sɪstəm/ noun C [13] a system of associating the name of a device on a network such as the Internet with its numerical address so that the name can be used by the user and the numerical address can be used by the network system
- dot-matrix printer** /dot 'meɪtrɪks ,prɪntə(r)/ noun C [8] a printer that prints by hammering pins onto an inked ribbon
- double click** /'dʌbl 'klɪk/ verb [7] to press and release the left-hand button on a mouse two times in rapid succession
- download** /'daʊn'lɒd/ verb [1, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 23, 25] to copy a file from a server to a client computer in a network
- download** /'daʊn'lɒd/ noun C [13, 16, 23] a process of copying a file from a server to a client computer in a network
- downstream** /'daʊnstri:m/ noun U [16] the signal path for receiving communications from a server to a client computer in a network
- drag and drop** /'dræg ən 'drɒp/ verb [7, 10, 21] to move data from one location to another with a mouse. Holding down the mouse button while moving the mouse moves the selected data. Releasing the mouse button drops the data in the new location.
- drive array** /'draɪv ə'reɪ/ noun C [17] a set of hard disks that are used in a RAID system
- driver** /'draɪvə(r)/ noun C [15, 17] a systems program that controls a peripheral device
- DSL** /di:'es 'el/ noun U [16] abbreviation for digital subscriber line
- DTP** /di:'ti:'pi:/ noun U [8] abbreviation for desktop publishing. A process of designing documents for publishing using a computer system.
- dumb terminal** /'dʌm ,tɜ:mɪnəl/ noun C [11] a network device with a keyboard and display screen that is used for sending and receiving data but does not do any processing
- duplex** /dju:'pleks/ adj [16] able to transfer data in both directions, i.e. can send and receive data
- DVD (-ROM)** /di:'vi:'di:/ noun C [2, 9, 11] abbreviation for digital versatile disk read only memory. An optical disk storage device that can hold a large amount of video data.

E

- EAN** /i:'eɪ 'en/ noun U [3] abbreviation for European Article Number system. The European price and item codes commonly used in barcode systems
- earphone** /'ɛəfəʊn/ noun C [24] sound output device that fits into the ear of the user
- earth** /ɜ:θ/ noun U [12] a common name for an electrical ground point or zero voltage point
- ebook** /'i:bʊk/ noun C [25] common name for an electronic book
- ebook reader** /'i:bʊk ,ri:də(r)/ noun C [25] common name for an electronic book reader

e-business /'i:biznis/ noun U [14] common term for electronic business, i.e. business that is carried out using the Internet

e-cash /'i:kæʃ/ noun U [24] common name for electronic cash

ECC memory /'i: si: si: 'meməri/ noun U [2] abbreviation for error code correcting memory. A type of memory often used in server computers that automatically fixes simple memory errors without requiring the rebooting of the computer.

e-commerce /'i: kɒmɜ:s/ noun U [8, 14, 22, 23] the business of buying and selling goods and services on the Internet

editor /'editə(r)/ noun C [5, 25] a computer program for making changes to text in computer programs or data

edutainment /'edʒu'teimənt/ noun U [1] a system that has both educational and entertainment value

EIDE /'i: ai di: 'i:/ noun U [2] abbreviation for extended integrated device electronics. A type of hard disk control system where most of the control electronics is built into the drive itself. Extended IDE allows the use of multiple drives of more than 528 megabytes.

electronic (book) reader /'elek.trɒnik 'ri:də(r)/ noun C [18, 25] a computing device that displays the text and images of an electronic book

electronic book /'elek.trɒnik 'bʊk/ noun C [25] a book that is displayed using a computing device instead of being printed on paper

electronic cash/money /'elek.trɒnik 'kæʃ, 'mʌni/ noun U [24] data that represents real money that is stored and transferred on computing devices connected to the Internet in e-commerce systems

electronic publisher /'elek.trɒnik 'pʌblɪʃə(r)/ noun C [25] an organisation that produces ebooks

electronic virtual assistant /'elek.trɒnik ,vɜ:tʃʊəl ə'sistent/ noun C [23] a computer program represented by an animated screen image that is used to help the user perform particular tasks such as searching the Internet for useful data

email /'i:meɪl/ noun C [1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24] the common name for an electronic mail message, i.e. a text message sent electronically using a computer

email /'i:meɪl/ verb [1, 23] to send an email message

email address /'i:meɪl ə'dres/ noun C [12, 18] the unique address code used

to contact someone using electronic mail

email attachment /'i:meɪl ə'tætʃmənt/ noun C [1, 15, 19] a file that is attached to an email message

email program /'i:meɪl ,prəʊgræm/ noun C [13] a computer program used for reading and sending email

email service /'i:meɪl ,sɜ:vɪs/ noun C [20] an Internet service that allows user to send and receive emails

encapsulation /'en,kæpsjʊ'leɪʃn/ noun U [21] a key feature of object-oriented programming that bundles data and program instructions into modules called objects

encode /'en'kəʊd/ verb [9, 11, 14, 18] to write information in a coded form

encoder /'en'kəʊdə(r)/ noun C [9] a computer program that converts WAV files into MP3 files or vice versa

encrypt /'en'kript/ verb [11, 18, 19] to transform data into coded form to make it secure

encryption /'en'kriptʃn/ noun U [18, 20, 23, 24] the transformation of data into coded form to make it secure

Enter (key) /'entə(r)/ noun C [10, 13] another name for the RETURN key on a computer keyboard. Pressing the ENTER key inserts the data into the memory of the computer.

enterprise resource planning tool /'entəpraɪz rɪ,zɔ:s 'plæniŋ tu:l/ noun C [8] a type of computer program for planning and organising business functions in an enterprise. It can help companies manage everything from sales and marketing to human resources.

EPOS till /'i:pos tɪl/ noun C [3] acronym for electronic point-of-sale till. A computerised cash register that edits records in sales and stock control databases.

e-publishing /'i: ,pʌblɪʃɪŋ/ noun U [25] the production of ebooks

erasable optical disk /'ɪ ,reɪzəbl ,ɒptɪkəl 'dɪsk/ noun C [19] a CD that allows data to be deleted and new data to be recorded on it

ERP /'i: ɑ: 'pi:/ noun U [22] abbreviation for enterprise resource planning

e-solution /'i: sɜ:lju:ʃn/ noun C [22] common term for electronic solutions, i.e. ways of solving a problem or providing a service using the Internet

ethernet /'i:θanet/ noun U [2, 11, 12] a widely-used local area network standard that broadcasts packets of data that are addressed to particular devices on the network. Each device on the network reads the address and passes it on to the correct device.

(Microsoft) Exchange /'ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ/ noun U [7, 22] a Microsoft Windows program that includes an email program, a calendar task list and address list

exe program /'eks'tɪ ,prəʊgræm/ noun C [18] an MS-DOS executable program that has an .exe filename extension. It can use more than 64 kilobytes of memory and can be located anywhere in the memory.

executable /'eksɪ'kju:təbl/ adj [21] containing instructions that can be run or executed by the processor

execute /'eksɪkju:t/ verb [6, 18, 21] to perform a computer operation by processing a program instruction

expansion card /'ɪk'spænʃn kɑ:d/ noun C [1, 10] an electronic circuit board used for adding facilities to a computer

expansion slot /'ɪk'spænʃn slɒt/ noun C [2] a long thin connector that is used for adding additional electronics in the form of expansion cards

expert system /'ekspɜ:t ,sɪstəm/ noun C [1] an artificial intelligence program that collects and uses human expertise to allow non-experts to solve specialised problems

extensible /'ɪk'stensəbl/ adj [14] able to be added to, e.g. in an extensible language a developer can add their own terms

extensible markup language /'ɪk'stensəbl 'mɑ:k əp ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun U [14, 16, 21] a metalanguage that allows developers to create their own set of customised tags that identify the meaning and structure of data. It is used for creating files that are program-independent, platform-independent and able to be used with different languages.

F

FAQ /'ef ei 'kju:/ noun C [14, 17] acronym used on websites for frequently-asked question

fault tolerance /'fɔlt ,'tɒlərəns/ noun U [17] a computer's ability to recover from hardware errors

fetch /'feʃ/ verb [21] to go and get the next instruction or piece of data from memory

field /'fi:ld/ noun C [13] a section of a database where an item of data is stored

file /'faɪl/ noun C [5, 6, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24] a computer program or data stored on a storage device

file server /'faɪl ,sɜ:və(r)/ noun C [8, 11, 17, 22] a main computer that provides a storage area for data files on a network

file transfer protocol /ˈfaɪl ˌtrænsfəː/

ˈprəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [12] an Internet service that allows users to transfer files from one computer to another

file virus /ˈfaɪl ˌvaɪrəs/ noun C [18] a virus that attaches itself to a program file

filestore /ˈfaɪlstɔː(r)/ noun C [5] a collection of computer files stored centrally on a network server

firewall /ˈfaɪəwɔːl/ noun C [19,20] a combination of hardware and software used to control the data going into and out of a network. It is used to prevent unauthorised access to the network by hackers.

flag /flæɡ/ verb [2] to mark in a way that indicates that a particular condition has occurred

flat file database /ˈflæt faɪl ˈdeɪtəbeɪs/ noun C [3] a simple database in which all the data is stored in one table which is not related to any other table

floppy (disk) /ˈflɒpi/ noun C [4] a magnetic storage device in the form of a small plastic disk. Also known as a diskette.

floppy (disk) drive /ˈflɒpi draɪv/ noun C [2,4,10,11] a common magnetic storage device that reads and writes data on a floppy disk. Also known as a diskette drive.

flowchart /ˈfləʊtʃɑːt/ noun C [21] a kind of diagram used by programmers to show the logical steps in a program or by systems analysts to show logical steps in the design of a system

folder /ˈfəʊldə(r)/ noun C [7,13] see directory

FORTRAN /ˈfɔːtræn/ noun U [21,22] acronym for Formula Translator. A high-level computing language that was designed by scientists in 1954 and is oriented toward manipulating formulas for scientific, mathematical and engineering problem-solving applications.

forward /ˈfɔːwəd/ verb [13] to pass on without changing the content, e.g. a received email can be passed on to or forwarded to another address

frame /freɪm/ noun C [14] a section of a webpage that acts as an independent browser window. Clicking on a link in one frame can cause a webpage to be displayed in another frame, e.g. a menu in one frame can provide links to webpages that are displayed in another frame.

Free Software Foundation /ˈfriː ˌsɒftweɪ ˈfaʊnˌdeɪʃn/ noun U [6] an organisation that is dedicated to producing software that can be used by anyone who wants to use it at no cost. It depends on the

voluntary effort of a large number of programmers throughout the world creating and improving programs and making their work freely available to others.

free up /friː ˈʌp/ verb [5] to make space available, e.g. by deleting files on a hard disk

freeware /ˈfriːweə(r)/ noun U [15] computer programs that are made available to anyone who wants to use them at no cost to the user

frequency band /ˈfriːkwənsi bænd/ noun C [23] a set of frequencies that are used together to provide a path for the transmission of signals

frequency display /ˈfriːkwənsi dɪˌspleɪ/ noun C [9] an electronic device for showing the frequency of a signal

frequency hopping /ˈfriːkwənsi ˌhɒpɪŋ/ noun U [23] a process of changing frequencies within a fixed bandwidth during a transmission so that other transmissions can use the same bandwidth at the same time without interfering with each other

FTP /ef tiː ˈpiː/ noun U [12,20] abbreviation for file transfer protocol

full backup /fʊl ˈbækʌp/ noun C [19] a type of backup that copies all the selected files on a system whether or not they have been edited or backed up before

full-duplex /fʊl ˌdʒuːpleks/ adj [11,23] able to transfer data in both directions simultaneously, i.e. data can be transmitted and received at the same time

futurologist /ˈfjuːtʃəˌrɒlədʒɪst/ noun C [24] a person who studies and predicts what technology will be like and what effects it will have in the future

G

games console /ˈɡeɪmz ˌkɒnsəʊl/ noun C [23] an electronic device used for playing computer games

gateway /ˈɡeɪtweɪ/ noun C [11,12,13,15,18] an interface that enables dissimilar networks to communicate such as two LANs based on different topologies or network operating systems

Gb/GB /ˈɡɪɡəbaɪt/ noun C [2,9,11] abbreviation for a gigabyte

geek /giːk/ noun C [20] although it was originally a derogatory term used for an expert lacking in social skills, it is now used in computing to mean a dedicated expert

general packet radio service /ˌdʒenrəl ˈpæktɪ ˈreɪdɪəʊ ˌsɜːvɪs/ noun U [16] a GSM data transmission technique that transmits and receives data in packets

general-purpose language /ˌdʒenrəl ˈpɜːpəs ˈlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a

computer language that can be used to write different types of programs

get listed /get ˈlɪstɪd/ verb [15] to register the Web address of a website on an Internet search engine

GHz /ˈɡɪɡəhɜːts/ noun C [2,23] abbreviation for gigahertz

gigabit /ˈɡɪɡəbɪt/ noun C [23] a unit of storage capacity equal to 1 073 741 824 bits

gigabyte /ˈɡɪɡəbaɪt/ noun C [2] a unit of storage capacity equal to 1 073 741 824 bytes

gigahertz /ˈɡɪɡəhɜːts/ noun C [3] a unit of frequency equal to one thousand million hertz (cycles every second)

global positioning system /ˌɡləʊbl ˈpəːzɪŋɪŋ ˌsɪstəm/ noun C [16] a system that determines the user's location by comparing radio signals from several satellites

Gnome /ɡəˈnəʊm/ noun U [6] a project to build a complete user-friendly Unix-like desktop system based entirely on free software. It is part of the GNU project and part of the OpenSource movement.

GNU /ɡəˈnuː/ noun U [6] a freely distributed portable Unix compatible software system

GPRS /ˌdʒiː piː ɑːr ˈes/ noun U [16] abbreviation for general packet radio service

GPS /ˌdʒiː piː ˈes/ noun C [16,20] abbreviation for global positioning system

graphic equaliser /ˌɡræfɪk ˈiːkwəlaɪzə(r)/ noun C [9] an electronic device that uses slider controls to adjust the frequency response of an audio system

graphical (user) interface /ˌɡræfɪkl ˈɪntəfeɪs/ noun C [6,7,21] the part of an operating system that allows the user to interact with a computer using graphic images and a cursor

grep /ɡrep/ noun U [6] a Unix command for searching through one or more text files for a specific text string

GUI /ɡuːɪ/ noun C [7] acronym for graphical user interface

H

hack /hæk/ verb [6,20,23] to gain unauthorised access to a network system

hacker /ˈhækə(r)/ noun C [18,20] a skilled programmer who attempts to gain unauthorised access to a network system

half-duplex /ˈhɑːf ˌdʒuːpleks/ adj [11] able to transfer data in both directions but only in one direction at a time, i.e.

- data can be transmitted or received but not at the same time
- handheld (computer)** /'hændheld/ noun C [1, 7, 16] a small portable computer that can be held in one hand
- hang** /hæŋ/ verb [17] to suddenly and unexpectedly stop processing during the execution of a program
- hard (disk) (drive)** /hɑ:d (disk) (draɪv)/ noun C [1, 2, 5, 8, 15, 17, 18, 19] a common magnetic storage device that reads and writes data on metal disks inside a sealed case
- hardware** /'hɑ:dweə(r)/ noun U [1, 5, 6, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24] the physical components of a computer system
- (disk drive) head** /hed/ noun C [2] the part of a disk drive that reads and writes data to the disk
- header** /'hedə(r)/ noun C [11, 13] the first section of a message that contains information about the content and transmission of the message including the sending and destination addresses
- headphone** /'hedfəʊn/ noun C [23] sound output device that fits over the ears of the user
- help-desk/helpline** /'helpdesk, 'helpləɪn/ noun C [12, 22] a telephone service for helping users solve problems that occur on computer systems
- hierarchical storage management** /'haɪə, rɑ:kɪkl 'stɔ:ɪnɪdʒ, mænɪdʒmənt/ noun U [19] a system of automatically moving files to different storage media depending on how often the files are used, i.e. the least used files are gradually archived. The less a file is used the more difficult it becomes to access it in the archive.
- high-end package** /'haɪ 'end, pækɪdʒ/ noun C [8] a set of computer programs with a wide variety of complex features
- Higher National Certificate** /'haɪə, næʃənl sə'tɪfɪkət/ noun U [5] a British college qualification that can be gained through part-time or full-time study. It is usually obtained before studying for an HND.
- Higher National Diploma** /'haɪə, næʃənl dɪ'plɒmə/ noun U [5] a British college qualification that usually requires a period of full-time study. It is more advanced than an HNC and not as advanced as a degree.
- high-level language** /'haɪ, 'levəl 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a programming language closer to human language than low-level computer languages such as machine code or assembly language
- high-level program** /'haɪ, 'levəl 'prəʊgræm/ noun C [12] a computer program written using a high-level language
- highlight** /'haɪlaɪt/ verb [10, 15] to select by marking on the display screen
- hijacking** /'haɪdʒækɪŋ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves redirecting anyone trying to visit a certain website elsewhere
- HNC** /'eɪtʃ en 'si:/ noun U [22] abbreviation for Higher National Certificate
- HND** /'eɪtʃ en 'di:/ noun U [22] abbreviation for Higher National Diploma
- Home button** /'həʊm, bʌtən/ noun C [13] the button icon on a Web browser program that takes you to the starting webpage
- homepage** /'həʊmpeɪdʒ/ noun C [20] the main start page of a website
- host** /'həʊst/ noun C [13, 18] a computer that provides a service on a network / a program that carries a virus
- hot plug** /'hɒt plʌg/ verb [2] to attach a device to a system without switching the system off and without causing problems to the system
- hover** /'hɒvə(r)/ verb [7] to hold a cursor over an icon for a short period of time
- HSM** /'eɪtʃ es 'em/ noun U [19] abbreviation for hierarchical storage management
- HTML** /'eɪtʃ ti: em 'el/ noun U [6, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22, 25] abbreviation for hypertext markup language. A page description language that uses a system of tags for creating web pages.
- hub** /hʌb/ noun C [11, 15] an electronic device at the centre of a star network topology
- humanoid** /'hju:mənɔɪd/ noun C [23] a robot with human characteristics
- hyperlink** /'haɪpəlɪŋk/ noun C [7, 13, 20] a text or image in a webpage that causes a related webpage to be displayed or another program to be started when the user clicks on the hyperlink using the mouse
- hypertext markup language** /'haɪpətɛkst 'mɑ:kəp, 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun U [14, 16, 21] a page description language that has a set of tags that can be inserted into a document to make it act as a webpage. The tags determine how the document is displayed on the screen and marks the position of hyperlinks.
- I/O** /aɪ 'əʊ/ noun C [17] abbreviation for input/output
- IBM** /aɪ bi: 'em/ noun U [6, 22, 23, 25] abbreviation for International Business Machines, the largest computer company in the world. It launched the first personal computer called the IBM PC which quickly became the standard.
- IC** /aɪ 'si:/ noun C [12] abbreviation for integrated circuit. A complete electronic circuit built on a single silicon chip.
- icon** /'aɪkɒn/ noun C [7, 21] a small picture used in a WIMP system to represent a program folder or file
- IEEE 802.11** /aɪ i: i: 'i: eɪt əʊ, tu: pɔɪnt wʌn 'wʌn/ noun U [23] a wireless networking system standard approved by the American regulating organisation called the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
- I-frame** /'aɪ freɪm/ noun C [9] the common name for an intra frame in an MPEG compressed file
- image editor** /'ɪmɪdʒ, editə(r)/ noun C [8] a computer program that allows the user to make changes to images
- image map** /'ɪmɪdʒ mæp/ noun C [14] a graphic image with separate areas that contain hyperlinks to different parts of a website
- IMAP** /'aɪmæp/ noun U [13] acronym for Internet mail access protocol
- inbox** /'ɪnbɒks/ noun C [13] the folder in an email program where emails are stored when they are first received
- incremental backup** /'ɪnkrə, məntəl 'bækʌp/ noun C [19] a type of backup that copies all the selected files that have been changed since the last full differential or incremental backup
- industrial scientific and medical band** /ɪn, dʌstriəl, saɪəntɪfɪk ənd 'medɪkl bænd/ noun U [23] a set of radiowave frequencies centred around 2.45GHz used for industrial scientific and medical devices and for Bluetooth devices
- information superhighway (the)** /'ɪnfə, meɪʃn 'su:pə, haɪweɪ/ noun U [1, 24] an informal term for a global high-speed network providing communication services that are freely available to everyone, i.e. a highly-developed Internet system
- information technology** /'ɪnfə, meɪʃn tek'nɒlədʒi/ noun U [22, 23, 24, 25] the study and practice of techniques or use of equipment for dealing with information
- inheritance** /ɪn'hɛrɪtəns/ noun U [21] a key feature of object-oriented programming that allows specific instances of a class to inherit all the properties of the class, e.g. squares are a specific instance of rectangles and inherit all the properties of rectangles

in-house /'ɪn haʊs/ adj [22] done by employees of an organisation rather than people outside the organisation

initialise (the hard disk) /'ɪnɪʃəlaɪz/ verb [18] to reboot or restart the computer

input /'ɪnpʊt/ verb [2,4,6] to put data into a system

input /'ɪnpʊt/ noun U [2,6,7,21,23] data put into a system

input device /'ɪnpʊt dɪvaɪs/ noun C [2,7] a piece of equipment used for putting data into a computer

integrated services digital network /'ɪntɪɡreɪtɪd 'sɜːvɪsɪz dɪʃɪtəl

'netwɜːk/ noun U [16] a broadband network communications system that allows the ordinary analogue telephone system to carry digital signals including voice, data, text, graphics and video

Intel /'ɪntel/ noun U [2,23,25] the American company that designs and produces the electronic processors used in most of the computers in the world

intelligent agent /ɪn'telɪdʒənt 'eɪdʒənt/ noun C [7,24] a computer utility program that uses artificial intelligence to perform tasks for the user such as retrieving and delivering information and automating repetitive tasks

interactive /ɪntə'rektɪv/ adj [21,24] allows two-way communication so that the user can respond or interact with the system

interface /'ɪntəfeɪs/ noun C [6,7,9,11,16,24] the hardware or software that connects two systems and allows them to communicate with each other

Internet (protocol) address /'ɪntənət ə'dres/ noun C [12,13] a 32-bit code number assigned to every node on the Internet. It consists of a series of numbers that identify the major network and the sub-networks to which a node is attached and provides a path that gateways can use to route information from one machine to another.

(Microsoft) Internet Explorer /'ɪntənət ɪk'splɔːrə(r)/ noun U [17] a free browser program developed by the Microsoft Corporation

Internet mail access protocol /'ɪntənət 'meɪl ækses 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [13] a set of standards for accessing email messages stored on an email server. Initially only message headers are retrieved. Users can then organise or delete messages on the server and download individual messages.

Internet protocol /'ɪntənət 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [12] the basic set of standards for enabling computers to communicate over the Internet

Internet service provider /'ɪntənət 'sɜːvɪs prə'vaɪdə(r)/ noun C [14,23] an organisation that provides Internet connections for a fee

Internet (the) /'ɪntənət/ noun U [1,5,6,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,25] the connection of computer networks across the world

interpreter /ɪn'tɜːprɪtə(r)/ noun C [5] a program that converts other programs into machine code line by line as the programs are being used

intra frame /'ɪntərə freɪm/ noun C [9] a type of image frame used in MPEG compression which contains only information in the picture itself

intranet /'ɪntrənət/ noun C [7,23] a computer network that is internal to an organisation and uses the TCP/IP protocol in the same way as the Internet

IP /aɪ 'piː/ noun U [12] abbreviation for Internet protocol. A part of the TCP/IP protocol used on the Internet.

IP address /aɪ 'piː ə'dres/ noun C [13] abbreviation for Internet protocol address

IP-layer /aɪ 'piː leɪə(r)/ noun C [12] the IP part of a TCP/IP system

IRC /aɪ ɑː 'siː/ noun U [12,20] abbreviation for Internet relay chat. An Internet service that allows user to have a conversation by sending text messages to each other in real-time.

iris recognition /'aɪrɪs rekəɡ'nɪʃn/ noun U [16] a process of identifying a user by scanning their eyes

IS Manager /aɪ 'es 'mænɪdʒə(r)/ noun C [22] an abbreviated form of information systems manager. A person who manages a computer-based service that provides information that is useful to a particular organisation.

ISDN /aɪ es diː 'en/ noun U [16] abbreviation for integrated services digital network

isolation adapter /aɪsə'leɪʃn ə'dæptə(r)/ noun C [11] an electronic device that isolates a network system from high voltages and allows it to use the mains electricity cables for connecting computers together and transferring data

ISP /aɪ es 'piː/ noun C [12,13,14,20] abbreviation for Internet service provider

IT /aɪ 'tiː/ noun U [5,8,22,23,24] abbreviation for information technology

iteration /ɪtə'reɪʃn/ noun C [21] a process that is repeated as long as certain conditions remain true

J

Java /'dʒɑːvə/ noun U [21,22,23] an object-oriented computer programming language that was developed by Sun Microsystems in the mid 1990s. Programs written in Java can be used on a wide range of operating systems. It is widely used for developing interactive applications for the Internet.

JavaScript /'dʒɑːvaskrɪpt/ noun U [22] a scripting language that allows simple programs to be embedded into HTML documents

JPEG /'dʒeɪ pɛɡ/ noun U [9] abbreviation for joint photographic expert group the committee that devised a common standard for image file format and compression. JPEG compression is commonly used for photographic images in webpages because it creates very small files.

jukebox /'dʒuːkɒks/ noun C [19] informal name for an optical disk drive that stores many optical disks. The disks are loaded into the drive when required by the host computer.

JUMP command/instruction /'dʒʌmp kə'mænd, ɪn'strʌkʃn/ noun C [18] a programming instruction that causes a program to change its normal sequence

junk email /dʒʌŋk 'ɪmeɪl/ noun U [12] unwanted and unsolicited email that is normally advertising or trying to sell something

K

Kb/KB /'kɪləbaɪt/ noun C [2] abbreviation for a kilobyte. A unit of storage capacity equal to 1024 bytes.

Kbit/s /'kɪləbɪts/ noun C [16,23] abbreviation for kilobits per second. A unit of signal speed equal to 1024 bits every second. A more common form is kbps.

kbps /'kɪləbɪts pə 'sekənd/ noun C [23] abbreviation for kilobits per second. A unit of signal speed equal to 1024 bits every second.

KDE /'keɪ diː 'iː/ noun U [6] a graphical user interface used with the Linux operating system

kernel /'kɜːnəl/ noun C [6,24] the lowest level layer at the core of an operating system. It deals with allocating hardware resources to the rest of the operating system and the application programs.

keyboard /'ki:bə:d/ noun C [1,2,6,11,16,19,23,24] the main electronic input device that has keys arranged in a similar layout to a typewriter

keystroke /'ki:straʊk/ noun C [18] the process of pressing and releasing a key on a keyboard

keyword /'ki:wɜ:d/ noun C [13] a word used to categorise documents or records in a file. Keywords can be used by a search engine to find relevant links on the Internet.

kHz /'kiləhɜ:ts/ noun C [9] abbreviation for kilohertz. A unit of frequency equal to 1000 cycles every second.

killer application /'kɪləɹ æpli,keɪfɪn/ noun C [23] an application program that is particularly useful and popular, making a computer system very successful

knowledge base /'nɒlɪdʒ beɪs/ noun C [17,22] a collection of information that can be easily modified, revised and manipulated to enable the user to solve particular problems

L

LAN /læn/ noun C [5,8,11,15,17,23] acronym for local area network

language processor /'læŋgwɪdʒ ,prəʊsesə(r)/ noun C [5] software that performs computer language translation

laptop (computer) /'læptɒp/ noun C [23] the largest type of portable computer

laser printer /'leɪzə ,prɪntə(r)/ noun C [8,16,17,21,25] a printer that prints using toner powder and laser light on a photosensitive drum

LCD /el si: 'di:/ noun C [10] abbreviation for liquid crystal display. An electronic display device that uses liquid crystal cells to control the reflection of light.

leased line /'li:st 'laim/ noun C [8] a cable connection that is rented for use in a communications system

library /'laɪbrəri/ noun C [21,22] a set of programmed functions that are made available for use by any program

line driver /'laim ,draɪvə(r)/ noun C [11] an electronic circuit that provides high currents or voltages to other electronic circuits

line size /'laim saɪz/ noun C [2] the amount of data transferred each time there is a transfer between the main memory and cache memory

link /lɪŋk/ noun C [13,14,15] a common term used for a hyperlink, i.e. the connection of a webpage to another webpage or file

Linux /'laɪnəks/ noun U [6] a clone of the Unix operating system created by Linus

Torvalds for use on personal computers

Linux distribution /'laɪnəks

distri,bju:ʃn/ noun C [6] the Linux-user term for a complete operating system kit complete with the utilities and applications needed to make it do useful things, e.g. command interpreters, programming tools, text editors, typesetting tools and graphical user interfaces

load /ləʊd/ verb [6,18] to copy a program from a storage device into the computer's memory

local area network /'ləʊkl ,eəriə 'netwɜ:k/ noun C [8,11] computers connected together over a small area such as a company department

log /lɒg/ verb [11] to record the time that an event happened

log /lɒg/ noun C [20] a record of when an event happened

log on /lɒg 'ɒn/ verb [6,12,18,19,20,23] to connect to a network system account normally using a password

logic bomb /'lɒdʒɪk bɒm/ noun C [18,20] destructive code introduced into a program that is triggered by some event taking place on the computer system at a later time

logic circuit /'lɒdʒɪk ,sɜ:kɪt/ noun C [2] a digital electronic circuit that compares two or more inputs and gives an output according to a particular rule of logic

look-up table /'lʊk ʌp ,teɪbl/ noun C [12,13] a method by which a program uses two sets of related records to find a required value. It is quicker than calculating the value using a formula but takes up more memory space.

loop structure /'lu:p ,strʌktʃə(r)/ noun C [21] see iteration

low-level language /'ləʊ levl 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [22] a computer language such as machine code or assembly language that is closer to the form that a computer understands than to that of a human language

loyalty card /'lɔɪlti kɑ:d/ noun C [2] an electronic card that gives the owner discount on purchases at a particular store depending on how much they spend

lpr /el pi: 'ɑ:(r)/ noun U [6] a Unix command for printing a file

ls /el 'es/ noun U [6] a Unix command for displaying a list of files in a directory

LVD /el vi: 'di:/ noun U [2] abbreviation Low Voltage Differential. The interface used in Ultra2 and Ultra3 SCSI.

M

m /em/ noun C [23] abbreviation for metre. An international unit for distance.

mA /'miliæmp/ noun C [23] abbreviation for milliamp. A unit of current equal to one thousandth of an amp.

(Apple) Mac /mæk/ noun C [7] the common name for the Apple Macintosh range of computers. A type of personal computer manufactured by Apple Computer Incorporated.

MAC /mæk/ noun C [18] acronym for message-authentication code

machine code /mə'ʃi:n kəʊd/ noun C [22] a computer language that consists entirely of a combination of 1s and 0s

machine intelligence /mə'ʃi:n in'telɪdʒəns/ noun U [24] another name for artificial intelligence

Mac OS /mæk əs 'es/ noun C [6] the family of operating systems used on the Apple Macintosh range of computers

macro virus /'mækrəʊ ,vaɪrəs/ noun C [18] a virus program in the form of a macro program

magnetic tape /mæɡ.netɪk 'teɪp/ noun U [19,24,25] a magnetic storage medium in the form of a thin plastic ribbon wound on a reel or a cassette. It is commonly used for backing up data.

mail bombing /'meɪl ,bɒmɪŋ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves inundating an email address with thousands of messages slowing or even crashing the server

mail client /'meɪl ,klaɪənt/ noun C [13] an email program that connects to an email server to send and receive email

mail server /'meɪl ,sɜ:və(r)/ noun C [13] a network service that stores email messages and enables email clients to send and receive emails

mailbox /'meɪlbɒks/ noun C [13] a folder used by an email server to store a user's emails

mailmerge /'meɪlmɜ:dʒ/ noun C [3,8] a wordprocessing facility that causes a mailing list to be automatically combined with a standard letter to produce a separate copy of the letter addressed to each person on the mailing list

main memory /,mem 'meməri/ noun U [2] the electronic memory that holds the programs and data being used

mainframe (computer) /'meɪnfrem/ noun C [2,5,6,21,22] the largest and most powerful type of computer. It is operated by a team of professionals.

mains line /'meɪnz laɪn/ noun C [11] the main electricity supply

- man** /mæn/ noun U [6] a Unix command for viewing the online manual pages on a Unix system
- markup language** /mɑ:kəp ˌlæŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [14] a set of tags that can be inserted into a document to indicate its layout and appearance
- massively parallel** /ˌmæsɪvli ˈpærəlel/ adj [24] being part of a system in which an application is processed by up to 200 or more processors at the same time. Each processor using its own operating systems and memory and working on a different part of the program.
- Mb/MB** /ˌmegəbaɪt/ noun C [2, 12] abbreviation for a megabyte
- Mbit/s** /ˌmegəbɪt pə ˈsekənd/ noun C [23] abbreviation for megabit per second. A unit of signal speed equal to 1 048 576 bits every second.
- Mbps** /ˌmegəbɪts pə ˈsekənd/ noun C [23] abbreviation for megabits per second. A unit of signal speed equal to 1 048 576 bits every second.
- megabyte** /ˌmegəbaɪt/ noun C [2, 9, 17] a unit of storage capacity equal to 1 048 576 bytes
- megahertz** /ˌmegəhɜ:ts/ noun C [2] a unit of frequency equal to 1 million cycles every second
- megohm** /ˌmegəʊm/ noun C [12] a unit of electrical resistance equal to 1 million ohms
- memory** /ˈmeməri/ noun U [2, 5, 6, 11, 15, 18, 19, 24] the electronic part of a computer system that is used for temporarily storing the programs and data that are being used by the processor
- menu** /ˈmenju:/ noun C [2, 7, 21] a list of options displayed on a computer screen
- menu bar** /ˈmenju: bɑ:(r)/ noun C [10, 16] a row of icons on a display screen that open up menus when selected
- message-authentication code** /ˌmesɪdʒ ɑ:θentɪˈkeɪʃn kəʊd/ noun C [18] a number produced by a message-digest function that is used to make a message tamper-proof and provide message integrity
- message-digest function** /ˌmesɪdʒ ˈdaɪdʒest ˌfʌŋkʃn/ noun C [18] a program function that processes a message to produce a number called a message-authentication code. This number is then used to make a message tamper-proof.
- message-integrity scheme** /ˌmesɪdʒ ɪnˈtegrəti ski:m/ noun C [18] a system that allows the receiver of a message to detect whether someone has tampered with the message in transit
- metadata** /ˌmetədɪtə/ noun U [14] data about data in a document
- metalanguage** /ˌmetələŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [14, 21] a language from which you can create other languages
- MHz** /ˌmegəhɜ:ts/ noun C [2, 23] abbreviation for megahertz
- microchip** /ˌmaɪkrəʃɪp/ noun C [22] an electronic integrated circuit in a small package
- microcomputer** /ˌmaɪkrəʊkəmˌpjʊ:tə(r)/ noun C [6, 11] a personal computer. Smaller and less powerful than a mainframe or a minicomputer.
- microprocessor** /ˌmaɪkrəʊˈprəʊsesə(r)/ noun C [3, 16, 25] the main electronic chip in a computer. It can be thought of as the 'brain' of the computer because it does the main processing and controls the other parts of the computer. It is sometimes called the CPU.
- Microsoft** /ˌmaɪkrəʊsɒft/ noun U [2, 5, 6, 18, 20, 22, 25] the common name for the Microsoft Corporation. The company founded by Bill Gates that developed the MS-DOS and Windows operating systems and a variety of software commonly used on desktop computers.
- microwave** /ˌmaɪkrəweɪv/ noun C [23] a high-frequency electromagnetic wave used in data communication systems
- MIDI** /ˈmɪdi/ noun U [9, 17, 18] acronym for musical instrument digital interface. A standard for connecting musical instruments to computer systems.
- minicomputer** /ˌmɪnɪkəmˌpjʊ:tə(r)/ noun C [6] a computer that is slightly less powerful and a little smaller than a mainframe
- Minix** /ˈmɪnɪks/ noun U [6] a compact Unix clone written as a teaching aid by Professor Andy Tannenbaum
- mirroring** /ˌmɪrərɪŋ/ noun U [17] a technique used in RAID 1 systems where at least two hard disks are paired in such a way that the hard disk controller writes each byte of data to both disks. This ensures that a backup exists should the primary disk drive fail.
- misdirection routine** /ˌmɪsdəˈrekʃn, dɪˌdaɪ-ru:ti:n/ noun C [18] the part of a computer virus that enables it to hide itself by altering the normal sequence of instructions in another program
- mixing desk** /ˌmɪksɪŋ desk/ noun C [9] an electronic device used in audio recording that allows a number of audio inputs to be mixed together
- mkdir** /ˌem keɪ ˈdɪə(r)/ noun U [6] a Unix and MS-DOS command for creating a directory
- MO** /ˌem əʊ/ adj [19] abbreviation for magneto-optical. Used to describe storage devices that use a combination of magnetism and laser light.
- mobile phone** /ˌməʊbaɪl ˈfəʊn/ noun C [15, 16, 23] a wireless telephone that operates over a wide area
- modem** /ˌməʊdem/ noun C [2, 5, 10, 11, 12, 16, 23] short for modulator/demodulator. An electronic device that converts signals to enable a computer to be connected to an ordinary telephone line.
- modulation** /ˌmɒdʒəˈleɪʃn/ noun U [23] a process of combining a data signal with a carrier wave by causing the data signal to modify the amplitude frequency or phase of the carrier wave
- monitor** /ˈmɒnɪtə(r)/ noun C [1, 2, 9, 16, 17, 18, 24] the main output device used to display the output from a computer on a screen. See VDU.
- MOO** /mu:/ noun C [12, 16] acronym for multi-user object oriented. An Internet virtual environment developed from multi-user adventure games that allows many users to interact.
- motherboard** /ˌmʌðəbɔ:d/ noun C [2, 5, 16] the main electronic circuit board inside a computer that holds and connects together all the main electronic components
- mouse** /maʊs/ noun C [1, 2, 7, 11, 17, 21, 23, 25] a common cursor control input device used with a graphical user interface. It commonly has two or three button switches on top and a ball underneath that is rolled on a flat surface.
- mouse button** /ˌmaʊs ˈbʌtən/ noun C [10] a switch on a mouse that is pressed to select an object on the screen
- mouse pointer** /ˌmaʊs ˈpɔɪntə(r)/ noun C [15] a cursor image in the shape of an arrow that is controlled by a mouse and is used for pointing and selecting icons on the screen
- MouseKeys** /ˌmaʊski:z/ noun U [7] a Microsoft Windows operating system feature that changes the function of the numeric keypad keys on a computer keyboard so that they can be used to control the screen cursor
- MP3** /ˌem pi: ˈθri:/ noun U [9, 23] abbreviation for MPEG Audio Layer 3. A Motion Picture Experts Group standard for audio compression.
- MPEG** /ˌempeɡ/ noun U [9, 23] a standard video compression scheme. The term is an acronym for Motion Picture

Experts Group a committee that develops standards for audio and video file formats and compression.

MS-DOS /ˌem ɛs 'dɒs/ noun U [6,25] abbreviation for Microsoft disk operating system. The command line operating system that was used in the first PCs.

multimedia /ˌmʌlti'mi:diə/ noun U [1,2,13,15,21] the combination of text graphics animation sound and video

multimodal input /ˌmʌlti,məʊdəl 'ɪnpʊt/ noun U [7] the process of operating a user interface using a combination of types of input, e.g. keyboard and speech recognition

MVS /ˌem vi: 'es/ noun U [6,22] abbreviation for multiple virtual storage. It is the name given to a family of operating systems used on IBM mainframe computers

mW /ˌmiliwɒt/ noun C [23] abbreviation for milliwatt. A unit of power equal to one thousandth of a watt.

My Briefcase /ˌmaɪ 'bri:ʃkeɪs/ noun U [7] a Microsoft Windows feature that simplifies the process of copying and synchronising files between a desktop and a portable computer

N

natural-language programming /ˌnætʃrəl ˌlæŋgwɪdʒ 'prəʊɡræmɪŋ/ noun U [21] the process of writing programs using a computer language that is very similar to natural human language

near-line storage /ˌniə ˈlaɪn 'stɔ:ɪdʒ/ noun U [19] the part of a hierarchical storage management system that stores infrequently-used files in a way that will allow them to be easily retrieved

Net (the) /net/ noun U [12,15,24] the common name for the Internet

NetPC /ˌnet pi: 'si:/ noun U [11] an industry specification for a low-cost basic Windows PC with an Intel processor designed for use on a multi-user network system. It is managed centrally and has no floppy disk drive CD-ROM drive or hardware expansion slots, i.e. it is a type of thin client.

Netscape Communicator /ˌnetskeɪp kə'mju:nɪkətə(r)/ noun U [11,15] a widely used web browser package

NetWare /ˌnetweə(r)/ noun U [6,22] a widely-used LAN operating system produced by Novell Incorporated

network /ˈnetwɜ:k/ verb [7,21] to connect a number of computers and peripheral devices together

network /ˈnetwɜ:k/ noun C [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,11,12,15,16,17,18,19,20,22,23,24] a combination of a number of computers

and peripheral devices connected together

network computer /ˈnetwɜ:k kəmˌpjʊ:tə(r)/ noun C [11] a computer designed using the industry specification from Oracle and Sun Microsystems for a low-cost basic personal computer that can have an Intel processor or another type of processor and can use a Java-based operating system. It is designed for use on a multi-user network system and is managed centrally. It has no floppy disk drive, CD-ROM drive or hardware expansion slots, i.e. it is a type of thin client.

network guru /ˈnetwɜ:k ˌɡʊrʊ:/ noun C [22] a person who is an expert in networking and gives talks and advice on the future development of networking

network layer /ˈnetwɜ:k ˌleɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that forms the data into packets and selects a route for the message

network operating system /ˈnetwɜ:k 'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ ˌsɪstəm/ noun C [11] an operating system that is used to administer and control a network allowing computers to share hardware and software while providing file security and backup facilities

neural net(work) /ˌnjuərəl ˌnet(wɜ:k)/ noun C [3,23] an artificial intelligence system that is capable of developing rules from given input so that it learns how to deal with more complex input

newsgroup /ˌnju:zɡrʊ:p/ noun C [12,14,22] an Internet discussion group that uses a restricted area on a server computer to display messages about a common interest

node /nəʊd/ noun C [11,12] a network terminal or point where a computer is connected to a network

notebook (computer) /ˈnəʊtbʊk/ noun C [23] a portable computer that is about the same size as a piece of writing paper

Novell /ˌnɒvəl/ noun U [22] the common name for Novell Incorporated. The American company that designs and produces the Network network operating system.

numeric keyboard /ˌnju:merɪk 'ki:bɔ:d/ noun C [7] the section of a computer keyboard that includes keys for entering numerical digits (0-9) and mathematical operators (+, /)

O

object /ˈɒbdʒekt/ noun C [21] an object-oriented programming module that has its own properties created by bundling data and program instructions together

object-oriented programming /ˈɒbdʒekt ˌɔ:rientɪd 'prəʊɡræmɪŋ/ noun U [21] a type of programming where programs are made from combinations of predefined modules that can be used over and over again

OCR /ˌəʊ si: 'ɑ:(r)/ noun U [3] abbreviation for optical character recognition

(Microsoft) Office /ˈɒfɪs/ noun U [8,22] a widely-used application package developed by the Microsoft Corporation that includes programs used in a typical office, e.g. a wordprocessor and spreadsheet

office application / suite /ˈɒfɪs æplɪˌkeɪʃn, ˌswi:t/ noun C [5,8] a computer program or set of programs that are used in a typical office, e.g. a wordprocessor spreadsheet and database

offline /ɒfˈlaɪn/ adj [12,19] disconnected from a computer system or the Internet

online /ɒnˈlaɪn/ adj [12,13,14,16,19,22,23,24] connected to a computer system or the Internet

OOP /ˌəʊ əʊ 'pi:/ noun U [21] acronym for object-oriented programming

Open Source /ˌəʊpən 'sɔ:s/ adj [6] part of a system of software development where anyone is free to take a copy of the source code and extend develop or fix bugs in it

operating system /ˈɒpəreɪtɪŋ ˌsɪstəm/ noun C [2,5,6,17,18,19,21,22,25] the set of programs that control the basic functions of a computer and provides communication between the application programs and the hardware

optical character recognition /ˌɒptɪkl ˌkærɪktə rekəɡˈnɪʃn/ noun U [3] a process that enables a computer to scan and recognise printed characters using the reflection of light

optical fibre /ˌɒptɪkl ˈfaɪbə(r)/ noun C [23] a common name for glass fibre cable used in high speed networks. It enables data signals to be transmitted using laser light.

optical media /ˌɒptɪkl ˈmi:diə/ noun U [19] data storage material that is written to or read from using laser light

ORACLE /ˈɒrəkl/ noun U [22] a widely used database management system

OS /əʊ ˈes/ noun C [6] abbreviation for operating system

OS X /ˌəʊ ɛs ˈten/ noun U [25] version 10 of the Apple Macintosh operating

system. It is a modular OS and has a desktop with a 3-D appearance. It includes support for UNIX-based applications as well as older Mac applications.

OS/2 /ˈəʊ es ˈtuː/ noun U [6] a multitasking desktop operating system for PCs that was marketed by IBM

Outlook Express /ˈaʊtlɒk ɪkˈspres/ noun U [17] a free graphical interface email program integrated into the Internet Explorer browser developed by the Microsoft Corporation

output /ˈaʊtpʊt/ noun U [2, 8, 21, 23] the processed data or signals that come out of a computer system

P

pA /ˈpi:kəʊæmp/ noun C [23] abbreviation for picoamp. A unit of current equal to a millionth of a millionth of an amp.

(software) package /ˈpækɪdʒ/ noun C [6, 12, 16, 22] an application program or collection of programs that can be used in different ways

packet /ˈpækɪt/ noun C [11, 12, 13] a fixed size unit of data prepared for transmission across a network. Messages are normally divided into packets before transmission.

packet-switching /ˈpækɪt swɪtʃɪŋ/ noun U [23] a method of transferring data across a network by dividing it into packets and transferring the packets individually from node to node then putting the packets together again when they arrive at the destination

page-description language /ˈpeɪdʒ dɪsˈkrɪpʃn ˌlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a type of programming language that uses tags to define the layout of a document, e.g. HTML is a page-description language used to design webpages

pager /ˈpeɪdʒə(r)/ noun C [16, 20] a small radio receiver which beeps to alert the wearer of messages or telephone calls. It displays the telephone number of the caller so the wearer can call back. Some pagers can display very short messages.

Palm Pilot /ˈpɑːm ˈpaɪlət/ noun U [11] a popular handheld personal organiser produced by 3Com

palm-size PC /ˈpɑːm saɪz piː ˈsiː/ noun C [7] another name for a handheld IBM compatible computer

palmtop (computer) /ˈpɑːmtɒp/ noun C [16] a portable computer that is small enough to be held in the palm of one hand. See handheld computer.

pane /peɪn/ noun C [10] a subsection of a graphical user interface window

parity data /ˈpærəti ˈdeɪtə/ noun U [17] extra data bits added to the end of units of data before transmission and then checked and added after transmission to see if the data has arrived accurately

Pascal /ˈpæsˈkæl/ noun U [5, 21] a high-level structured computer language named after the mathematician Blaise Pascal. It is often used in college computing courses to teach programming.

password /ˈpɑːswɜːd/ noun C [6, 12, 16, 19, 20, 21] a secret code used to control access to a network system

paste /peɪst/ verb [21] to insert a copy of data held in a computer's memory at a chosen position

patch /pætʃ/ verb [18] to insert programming code into a computer program to fix or modify it in some way

payload /ˈpeɪləʊd/ noun C [18] the part of a virus that carries out the threat such as displaying a slogan on the screen

payroll package /ˈpeɪrəʊl ˌpækɪdʒ/ noun C [8] a set of computer programs used for calculating pay cheques

PC /piː ˈsiː/ noun C [1, 2, 5, 6, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25] abbreviation for an IBM type of personal computer

PC-DOS /ˈpiː siː ˈdɒs/ noun U [6] an operating system for desktop PC computers that is similar to MS-DOS

PCMCIA /ˈpiː siː ˌem siː aɪ ˈeɪ/ noun U [2] a type of interface for connecting credit-sized electronic upgrade cards to portable computers. Devised by the Personal Computer Memory Card International Association.

PDA /ˈpiː diː ˈeɪ/ noun C [2, 23] abbreviation for personal digital assistant. A small handheld computer providing a variety of tools for organising work, e.g. a calendar, to do list, diary, address list, calculator, etc.

pen-based computer /ˌpen ˈbeɪst kəmˈpjʊtə(r)/ noun C [2, 6] a small computer that has a pen input device instead of a keyboard

Pentium /ˈpentɪəm/ noun C [2, 17, 25] a family of processors produced by the Intel Corporation

peripheral /pəˈrɪfərəl/ noun C [2, 15, 16, 23] a piece of equipment that is connected to the central processing unit of a computer system

personal computer /ˌpɜːsənl kəmˈpjʊtə(r)/ noun C [1, 7, 22, 23, 25] a computer designed to be used by one person at a time

personal organiser /ˌpɜːsənl ˈɔːɡənɪzə(r)/ noun C [23] see PDA

P-frame /ˈpiː freɪm/ noun C [9] the common name for a predicted frame in an MPEG compressed file

Photoshop /ˈfəʊtəʊʃɒp/ noun U [23] an image-editing computer program produced by Adobe Systems Inc.

physical layer /ˈfɪzɪkl ˌleɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that encodes the packets into the medium that will carry them and sends the packets along that medium

piconet /ˈpiːkəʊnet/ noun C [23] a set of very small low power wireless links consuming only picoamps of electricity that are set up between Bluetooth devices when they are within 10 metres of each other

piggybacking /ˈpɪɡɪbækɪŋ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves using another person's identification code or using that person's files before he or she has logged off

PIM /pɪm/ noun C [8] acronym for personal information manager. A computer program that provides a variety of tools for organising work, e.g. a calendar, to do list, diary, address list, calculator, etc.

PIN /pɪn/ noun C [16] an acronym for personal identification number. A unique number used by electronic systems to indicate who a person is.

platform /ˈplætfɔːm/ noun C [14, 22] a distinctive type of computer system that needs software to be written specifically for it, e.g., PC, Apple Mac, etc.

PlayStation /ˈpleɪstəɪʃn/ noun U [8] a games console developed by the Sony Corporation

pointer /ˈpɔɪntə(r)/ noun C [7] an arrow-shaped cursor

polymorphism /ˌpɒliˈmɔːfɪzəm/ noun U [21] a key feature of OOP programming by which different objects can receive the same instructions but deal with them in different ways

POP /pɒp/ noun U [12, 13, 14] acronym for post office protocol

port /pɔːt/ verb [6] to convert for use in another operating system or computer platform

port replicator /ˈpɔːt ˌreplɪkətə(r)/ noun C [2] a device that connects to a portable computer to make it easier to connect peripheral devices

portable (computer) /ˈpɔːtabl/ noun C [2] a computer that is small and light enough to be carried from place to place. It can usually be powered by batteries.

post /pəʊst/ verb [12] to display a message in a computer newsgroup or bulletin board

post office protocol /,pəʊst ˌɒfɪs 'prəʊtəkol/ noun U [13] a message-retrieval protocol used by many mail clients to get messages from a server. It only allows you to download all messages in your mailbox at once and works in 'pull' mode, i.e. the receiving PC initiating the connection.

predicted frame /prɪ'dɪktɪd freɪm/ noun C [9] a type of image frame used in MPEG compression. A predicted frame only stores the differences in the image compared to the previous I frame or P frame.

presentation layer /,prezən'teɪʃn ,leɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that ensures the message is transmitted in a language that the receiving computer can interpret

primary disk drive /'praɪməri disk draɪv/ noun C [17] the main disk drive in a computer. In a PC this is usually a hard disk known as the C drive.

Print Screen (key) /prɪnt 'skri:n/ noun C [7, 10] the computer keyboard key that copies the current display screen image to memory or to the printer

printed circuit board /,prɪntɪd 'sɜ:kɪt bɔ:d/ noun C [22] an electronic board that holds and connects the components of an electronic circuit

printer /'prɪntə(r)/ noun C [1, 2, 5, 6, 17, 21, 23] a common output device used for printing the output of a computer on paper

private key /,praɪvət 'ki:/ noun C [18] secret code known only to the owner that is used for encrypting and decrypting messages

procedural language /pra'si:dʒərəl ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [5] a computer programming language that enables programs to be written using sections of code known as procedures. Each procedure performs a specific task.

processor /'prəʊsesə(r)/ noun C [2, 7, 11, 17, 23, 25] the part of a computer that processes the data

program /'prəʊgræm/ noun C [1, 2, 5, 6, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25] a set of instructions written in a computer language that control the behaviour of a computer

program /'prəʊgræm/ verb [1, 6, 11, 16, 20, 21, 23] to write a set of instructions for controlling a computer using a computer language

programmer /'prəʊgræmə(r)/ noun C [4, 5, 6, 8, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25] a person who writes computer programs

programming /'prəʊgræmɪŋ/ noun U [5, 21, 22] the processes of writing a computer program using a computer language

programming language /'prəʊgræmɪŋ ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a computer language used for writing computer programs

protocol /'prəʊtəkol/ noun C [12, 13, 23] a set of agreed standards

pseudocode /'sjʊ:dəʊkəʊd/ noun C [21] a way of writing a description of a computer program using a mixture of natural language and computer language code

public domain /,pʌblɪk də'meɪn/ noun U [19] a condition in which there is no copyright on a work such as a computer program allowing it to be freely copied and used

public key /,pʌblɪk 'ki:/ noun C [18] a secret code the owner makes available to others so that they can encrypt messages they are sending to the owner

public-key cryptography /,pʌblɪk ki: kriptə'græfi/ noun U [18] a method of coding messages using public and private keys to prevent others from reading them

pull mode /'pʊl məʊd/ noun U [13] a type of communication where the receiving computer initiates the connection

pull-down menu /,pʊl daʊn 'menju:/ noun C [14] a list of choices that appear below a menu title on a display screen when the user clicks on the menu title using a mouse

push operation /'pʊʃ ɒpə'reɪʃn/ noun U [13] a communication where the sending computer initiates the connection

R

radar /'reɪdə(r)/ noun U [3, 15] a system of using the reflection of radio waves to detect an object and determine its location

radio button /'reɪdiəʊ ,bʌtən/ noun C [13] one of a set of mutually exclusive options in a dialog box, i.e. the user can only select one, causing the others to be deselected

RAID /reɪd/ noun U [2, 17] acronym for redundant array of inexpensive disks

RAID level /'reɪd ,levl/ noun C [17] a particular arrangement of RAID array disks. Each RAID level is given a number with higher numbers indicating more elaborate methods for ensuring a computer can recover from hardware errors. The best known are RAID 0 to RAID 5.

RAM /ræm/ noun U [2, 17] acronym for random access memory

Rambus memory /'ræmbʌs ,meməri/ noun U [2] a fast memory architecture commonly known as DRDRAM (or RDRAM) that is a possible future successor to SDRAM. It was originally developed by Rambus Inc.

random access memory /,rændəm 'æksɪs ,meməri/ noun U [2] a type of memory that can be accessed in any order. RAM is the main electronic memory of a personal computer and is used for storing the programs and data being used.

raw data /rɔ: 'deɪtə/ noun U [24] data that has not been processed

RDBMS /,ɑ: di: bi: em 'es/ noun C [22] abbreviation for relational database management system. A database system that links files together as required.

RDRAM /,ɑ: di: 'ræm/ noun U [2] abbreviation for Rambus dynamic random access memory. A new RAM technology capable of very high-speed transfer of data. See Rambus memory.

real-time /'ri:l taɪm/ noun U [12, 23, 24] the immediate processing of computer data enabling interactive applications

reboot /,ri:'bu:t/ verb [17] to restart a computer operating system

record /'rekɔ:d/ noun C [8, 19, 21] a section of a database made up of related database fields

recorder (program) /rɪ'kɔ:də(r)/ noun C [9] a computer program that allows the user to create their own audio CDs with a writeable CD-ROM drive

Recycle Bin /,ri:'saɪkl bɪn/ noun U [7] the folder in Microsoft Windows operating systems where deleted files are stored

redundant array of inexpensive disks

/rɪ,dʌndənt ə'reɪ əv ˌɪnɪkspensɪv 'dɪskz/ noun U [17] a storage system consisting of a set of hard disks that can be combined in different arrangements to store data in such a way that the data can be recovered if one or more of the disks fail

reliable stream service /rɪ,ləɪəbl 'stri:m ,sɜ:vɪs/ noun U [12] a data management system provided by the TCP protocol to ensure that data is transferred across a network correctly. It structures and buffers the data flow, looks for responses, and takes action to replace missing data blocks.

resident /'rezɪdənt/ adj [6, 18] is kept in the computer's memory

resistor /rɪ'zɪstə(r)/ noun C [12] an electronic component that reduces the flow of current in a circuit

resolution /ˈrezoʊluːʃn/ noun C [2, 24] a measure of the quality of a display screen in terms of the amount of graphical information that can be shown on the screen. This partly depends on the number of dots that make up the image.

resolution protocol /ˈrezoʊluːʃn ˈprəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [12] a set of standards for software used with internal look-up tables in a TCP/IP network for routing data through a gateway between networks

restore /rɪˈstoː(r)/ verb [17, 19] to put data back into its original location

reverse engineering /rɪˈvɜːs ˌendʒɪˈnɪərɪŋ/ noun U [24] to take an object apart to discover how it was originally designed and put together

RF /ɑːr ˈef/ noun U [23] abbreviation for radio frequency

right click /raɪt ˈkɪk/ verb [7, 21] to press and release the right-hand button on a mouse

ring main /rɪŋ meɪn/ noun C [23] the main electrical supply circuit in a building

rip /rɪp/ verb [9] to extract songs from a CD and turn them into WAV files

ripper /ˈrɪpə(r)/ noun C [9] a program that extracts songs from a CD and turns them into WAV files

rm /ɑːr ˈem/ noun U [6] a Unix command for deleting a file

rmdir /ɑːr ˈem ˈdɪə(r)/ noun U [6] a Unix and MS-DOS command for deleting a directory

robot /ˈrɒbɒt/ noun C [16, 21, 23, 24] a mechanical device controlled by a computer

robotics /ˈrɒbɒtɪks/ noun U [23] the study of robot systems

rocket science /ˈrɒkɪt ˌsaɪəns/ noun U [24] something requiring great intelligence or technical ability

ROM /rɒm/ noun U [2] acronym for read only memory

route /ruːt/ noun C [11, 12] the path that is used to transfer data in a network

route /ruːt/ verb [9, 11, 12] to move data from node to node on a network

router /ˈruːtə(r)/ noun C [11, 13, 15, 20] an electronic device that links different networks or parts of a network. It determines the path that a signal should take to reach its destination.

rpm /ɑː piː ˈem/ noun C [2] abbreviation for revolutions per minute

rule /ruːl/ noun C [3] the name given to patterns found in data when using neural networks

run /rʌn/ verb [5, 6, 17, 18] to execute a program, i.e. to get a program to process the data

who /ɑː ˈhuː/ noun U [6] a Unix command for displaying a report of who is currently logged in to the local network

S

s/w /ˈsɒftweɪ(r)/ noun U [22] abbreviation for software

salami shaving /səˈlɑːmi ˌʃeɪvɪŋ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves manipulating programs or data so that small amounts of money are deducted from a large number of transactions or accounts and accumulated elsewhere

SAP /sæp/ noun U [8, 22] a widely used enterprise resource planning tool program

save /seɪv/ verb [1, 10, 15, 18] to copy a program or data to a storage device

scan /skæn/ verb [1, 3, 16, 19] to copy text or graphics using a scanner

scanner /ˈskænə(r)/ noun C [2, 3, 19] an optical input device that uses the reflection of light to copy text or graphics into a computer

(monitor)(display) screen /skriːn/ noun C [1, 2, 7, 11, 16, 17, 18, 21, 24, 25] a computer output device used for displaying text and graphic images

scroll /skrɔːl/ verb [16, 17] to move through displayed information smoothly on the screen either horizontally or vertically

scrollbar /skrɔːlbɑː(r)/ noun C [14] the part of a graphical user interface window that allows the user to move through a document by clicking or dragging with the mouse

SCSI /es siː es ˈaɪ/ noun U [2] acronym for small computer systems interface. A standard way of connecting peripheral devices to a personal computer system. It is often used to connect hard disks and CD-ROM drives in server computers.

SDRAM /es diː ˈræm/ noun U [2] abbreviation for synchronous dynamic random access memory. A type of fast memory that uses a separate clock signal in addition to the normal control signals.

search engine /ˈsɜːtʃ ˌendʒɪn/ noun C [1, 6, 13, 14, 15, 23] a program designed to find information on the World Wide Web according to data entered by the user. Search engines are usually accessed from special websites.

sector /ˈsektə(r)/ noun C [2, 17] a formatted section of a circular magnetic track used for storing data on a disk

seek time /ˈsiːk taɪm/ noun C [17] the amount of time taken by a disk drive to find a particular track on a disk

segment /ˈsegmənt/ noun C [11] a subdivision of data created by a network communications transport layer for which a checksum is generated

serial /ˈsɪəriəl/ adj [24] designed to transfer data sequentially, i.e. one data bit after another

serial number /ˈsɪəriəl ˌnʌmbə(r)/ noun C [17] a number that uniquely identifies a product

serial port /ˈsɪəriəl pɔːt/ noun C [12] the small connector at the back of the system unit of a personal computer that is used to connect a serial device such as a serial mouse or a modem. Two serial ports labelled COM1 and COM2 are usually provided on a PC.

server /ˈsɜːvə(r)/ noun C [6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 22] a main computer that provides a service on a network

service tag number /ˈsɜːvɪs tæg ˌnʌmbə(r)/ noun C [17] a number used to identify a computer for maintenance agreements

session layer /ˈseʃn ˌleɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that opens communications and has the job of keeping straight the communications among all nodes on the network. It sets boundaries for the beginning and end of a message and establishes whether the messages will be sent half-duplex or full duplex.

SGML /es dʒiː ˈem ˈel/ noun U [14] abbreviation for Standard Generalised Markup Language

shareware /ˈʃeəweɪə(r)/ noun U [15, 19] software that is distributed freely and only paid for if the user decides to keep it

shell /ʃel/ noun C [6] a graphical user interface for an operating system

shell script /ʃel skript/ noun C [22] a text file that contains a sequence of commands for a UNIX-based operating system. In DOS operating systems a shell script is called a batch file.

shift key /ˈʃɪft kiː/ noun C [7] the computer keyboard key that is held down to produce uppercase letters

sign up /saɪn ˈʌp/ verb [12, 14] to register with a service

SimCity /sɪmˈsɪti/ noun U [18] a well-known computer simulation game in which the users control various aspects of running a virtual city

simple mail transfer protocol /ˌsɪmpl meɪl ˈtrænsfɜː ˈprəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [12, 13] a set of standards for sending email from an email client and transferring email between server computers on the Internet

- simulation** /ˌsɪmjʊˈleɪʃn/ noun C [12] a programmed virtual environment that imitates a real or planned system
- site** /saɪt/ noun C [11, 12, 13, 15, 18] a common name for a website
- site map** /ˈsaɪt məp/ noun C [14, 15] a webpage that is used to show the overall layout of a website
- skin** /skɪn/ noun C [9] a computer program that is used to change the interface of another program, e.g. to change the screen display on an MP3 player program
- SM band** /es ˈem bænd/ noun U [23] common name for the Industrial Scientific and Medical frequency band
- smart card** /ˈsmɑ:t kɑ:d/ noun C [1, 3, 19, 20] a plastic card containing a processor and memory chip. It can be used to store large amounts of confidential data.
- smart card reader** /ˈsmɑ:t kɑ:d ˈri:də(r)/ noun C [19] a device used for reading smart cards
- smart device** /ˈsmɑ:t dɪˈvaɪs/ noun C [1] a device that contains an embedded processor and memory
- smart phone** /ˈsmɑ:t fəʊn/ noun C [24] a telephone that contains an embedded processor and memory and can process data, e.g. translate English into German, Japanese and French in real time
- SMS** /es ɛm ˈes/ noun U [16] abbreviation for Short Message Service. A method of sending text messages that are 160 characters in length or shorter over a mobile phone.
- SMTP** /es ɛm tiː ˈpi:/ noun U [12, 13] abbreviation for simple message transfer protocol
- software** /ˈsɒftweə(r)/ noun U [1, 2, 5, 6, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25] the programs and data used in a computer
- software engineering** /ˈsɒftweər ɛndʒɪniəriŋ/ noun U [21] the discipline of designing high quality software solutions
- software house** /ˈsɒftweə haʊs/ noun C [25] a company that designs and produces software
- software piracy** /ˈsɒftweə ˈpaɪrəsi/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves unauthorised copying of a program for sale or distributing to other users
- soundcard** /ˈsaʊndkɑ:d/ noun C [2, 9] the electronic circuit expansion board in a computer that is used to process audio signals and connect to and control a microphone loudspeaker or headphone
- source code** /ˈsɔ:s kəʊd/ noun C [6] programming code that has to be processed by a compiler or translator to make object code for use in a computer
- spam** /spæm/ noun U [12] unsolicited email sent to large numbers of people indiscriminately usually advertising or trying to sell a product
- speaker** /ˈspi:kə(r)/ noun C [9, 11] common term for a loudspeaker. An output device for providing sound output.
- spectrum analyser** /ˈspektrəm ˌænləzaɪə(r)/ noun C [9] an instrument that plots a graph of frequency parameters for a complete frequency band
- splitter-based service** /ˈsplɪtə beɪst ˌsɜ:vɪs/ noun C [16] a DSL system that separates the data signal from the phone line as it enters a building and sends it to a DSL modem
- spoofing** /ˈspu:fɪŋ/ noun U [18] a computer crime that involves tricking a user into revealing confidential information such as an access code or a credit card number
- spread spectrum** /ˈspred ˌspektrəm/ noun U [23] a radiowave system that switches rapidly between different frequencies in a frequency band allowing a number of devices to share the same frequency band without interfering with each other
- spreadsheet (program)** /ˈspredʃi:t/ noun C [5, 6, 8, 16, 17] a type of application program with an array of cells that is used for calculating formulas
- SQL** /es kju: ˈel/ noun U [22] abbreviation for structured query language. A language used for searching databases.
- standalone** /ˈstændələʊn/ adj [5, 9] not connected to a network
- standard generalised markup language** /ˈstændəd ˌdʒenrəlaɪzd ˈmɑ:kəp ˌlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ noun U [14] the complex metalanguage from which both HTML and XML were created
- Start (button)** /stɑ:t/ noun C [10] an icon on the bottom left corner of Microsoft Windows operating system desktops that allows the user to access programs and data and to close down the system
- start bit** /ˈstɑ:t bɪt/ noun C [11] a data bit that marks the beginning of a data block in a network transmission
- Start menu** /ˈstɑ:t ˌmenju:/ noun C [10] the list of choices that opens up on the display screen when the user clicks the Start button in a Microsoft Windows desktop
- start-stop transmission** /ˈstɑ:t ˌstɒp trænzmɪʃn/ noun C [11] another name for asynchronous transmission where data is sent one byte (or character) at a time
- static earthing band** /ˌstætɪk ˈɜ:θɪŋ bænd/ noun C [12] a strip of material that is wound round the wrist of a repair technician and connected to earth to prevent the build up of static electricity which could destroy electronic components
- status bar** /ˈsteɪtəs bɑ:(r)/ noun C [10] a narrow band displayed across the bottom of a window in a Microsoft Windows application to display useful information for the user, e.g. number of pages in a document
- stealth virus** /ˈstelθ ˌvaɪrəs/ noun C [18] a type of virus that hides itself making it hard to detect
- stop bit** /ˈstɒp bɪt/ noun C [11] a data bit that marks the end of a data block in a network transmission
- storage device** /ˈstɔ:ɪdʒ dɪˈvaɪs/ noun C [2] a piece of equipment used for reading from and writing to a storage medium
- storage medium** /ˈstɔ:ɪdʒ ˌmi:diəm/ noun C [19] a material used for storing programs and data
- streaming** /ˈstri:mɪŋ/ noun U [13, 16] a process of downloading and storing the next part of a data signal while the first part is being used. In this way the data signal, e.g. an audio or video is fed to the slower destination device at a steady rate.
- string** /strɪŋ/ noun C [6, 11] a series of data characters which can be a mixture of letters or numbers
- striping** /ˈstraɪpɪŋ/ noun U [17] a process where data is spread across all drives in a RAID array rather than filling up one disk with data before writing to the next disk in the array
- structured language** /ˌstrʌktʃəd ˈlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ noun C [21] a computer programming language that requires the programmer to write programs made up of self-contained units or procedures
- structured programming** /ˌstrʌktʃəd ˈprəʊɡræmɪŋ/ noun U [21] the process of writing a program using a structured programming language
- subfolder** /ˈsʌbˌfəʊldə(r)/ noun C [10] a storage area that provides a subdivision of a folder so that stored files can be organised into smaller groups
- submenu** /ˈsʌbˌmenju:/ noun C [7] a list of choices that is displayed when the user clicks on an item in a menu

sub-network /'sʌb ,netwɜ:k/ noun C [12]
a self-contained part of a larger network

subpage /'sʌbpeɪdʒ/ noun C [14] a webpage that gives further detailed information about part of the information on a main webpage

sub-program /'sʌb ,prəʊgrəm/ noun C [22] a small program that performs a specific function and is part of a larger program

subset /'sʌbset/ noun C [3] a small group of related data that is part of a larger set of data

supercomputer /'su:pəkəm ,pi:ʊ:tə(r)/ noun C [2,24] the most powerful type of mainframe computer

superset /'su:paset/ noun C [21] a larger group of objects that include a smaller set of objects

supervisor (program) /'su:pəvaɪzə(r)/ noun C [6] the most important program in the operating system. It is resident and controls the entire operating system. It loads other operating system programs into memory when they are needed.

support analyst /sə'pɔ:t ,ænəlist/ noun C [22] a person who provides help to computer users by studying their requirements and designing systems to provide for their needs

support engineer /sə'pɔ:t ɛndʒɪ,nɪə(r)/ noun C [22,25] a professional who provides help for computer users by designing, building, and maintaining computersystems

support line /sə'pɔ:t laɪn/ noun C [12] a telephone line that can be used to get help with hardware or software problems. See helpdesk/helpline.

support technician /sə'pɔ:t tek,nɪʃn/ noun C [22] a person who maintains and troubleshoots problems with computers

surf /sɜ:f/ verb [15,23] to browse webpages on the Internet in an unplanned way

surge protector /'sɜ:dʒ prə,tektə(r)/ noun C [19] an electronic device that protects equipment from damage due to sudden high voltage or current in the power supply

SVGA /'es vi: dʒi: 'eɪ/ noun U [2] abbreviation for super video graphics array. A video screen display standard that provides 1024X768 or 1280X1024 pixel resolution with up to 16.7 million colours

swipe card /'swaɪp kɑ:d/ noun C [2] a plastic card with a magnetic strip running across it containing confidential data

SXGA /'es eks dʒi: 'eɪ/ noun U [2] abbreviation for super extended graphics array. An IBM video screen display standard similar to SVGA that provides 1024X768 or 1280X1024 pixel resolution with up to 16.7 million colours

synch byte /'sɪŋk baɪt/ noun C [] a start or stop bit pattern that marks the beginning or end of a transmitted data block

synchronise /'sɪŋkrənaɪz/ verb [11,21,23] to cause different processes to occur at the same time

synchronous /'sɪŋkrənəs/ adj [2,11,12,15] occurring at regular intervals and in step with other systems usually controlled by an electronic clock circuit

synthesiser /'sɪnθə,saɪzə(r)/ noun C [9] a device that uses electronic circuits to generate sounds

system bus /'sɪstəm bʌs/ noun C [2] the sets of connectors that carry signals between system components such as the processor and memory in a computer

system tray /'sɪstəm treɪ/ noun C [7,10] a section at the far right of a Microsoft Windows task bar that holds icons for the clock and other programs that run constantly in the background

systems administrator /'sɪstəmz əd,mɪnəstreɪtə(r)/ noun C [19] a person who maintains a multi-user computer system

systems analysis /'sɪstəmz ə,næləsɪs/ noun U [5,22] the study of a system to determine how it can be computerised

systems analyst /'sɪstəmz ,ænəlist/ noun C [21,22] a person who designs or modifies information systems to meet users' requirements. This includes investigating feasibility and cost-producing documentation and testing prototypes of the system.

systems manager /'sɪstəmz ,mænɪdʒə(r)/ noun C [20,22] a person who manages a computer system

systems program / software /'sɪstəmz ,prəʊgrəm, ,sɒftweə(r)/ noun C/U [5,6,21,22] a program or set of programs that is used to control the basic functions of a computer system, e.g. operating system programs

systems programmer /'sɪstəmz ,prəʊgrəmə(r)/ noun C [21,22] a person who specialises in writing systems software such as operating system programs

systems programming /'sɪstəmz ,prəʊgræmɪŋ/ noun U [22] the writing of systems programs

T

TA /ti: 'eɪ/ noun C [16] abbreviation for terminal adapter

tab /tæb/ noun C [8] a dialog box component that is used to switch between different sets of data

tab (key) /tæb/ noun C [7] the computer keyboard key that is used to move the cursor to the next tabulation point in a wordprocessor program so that data can be spaced evenly on the screen

tag /tæg/ noun C [9,14] a label used in a markup language such as HTML. It is attached to a piece of text to mark the start or the end of a particular function.

tape /teɪp/ noun U [19] a magnetic storage medium commonly used for storing backup files

tape changer /'teɪp ,tʃeɪŋdʒə(r)/ noun C [19] a backup device that allows different magnetic tapes to be used when required during a backup operation

taskbar /'tɑ:skbɑ:(r)/ noun C [7,10] a Microsoft Windows desktop component that indicates what programs are currently being used and allows the user to switch between them

TCP /ti: si: 'pi:/ noun U [12] abbreviation for transfer control protocol. A part of the TCP/IP protocol used on the Internet.

TCP/IP /ti: si: 'pi: 'ai pi:/ noun U [12,22] abbreviation for transmission control protocol/Internet protocol. The official set of standards for determining the form of the signals used for transmitting data on the Internet.

technophobic /'tekna'fəʊbɪk/ adj [24] having a fear or strong dislike of technology and technological devices

telecomms /'telɪkɒmz/ noun U [24] common term for telecommunications

telecommunications /,telɪkəmju:nɪ'keɪʃnz/ noun U [5,22] branch of technology concerned with communications over long distances

telecommunications engineer /,telɪkəmju:nɪ'keɪʃnz ɛndʒɪ,nɪə(r)/ noun C [25] a person who works with systems concerned with communications over long distances

telecommute /'telɪkə'mju:t/ verb [1] to communicate with your office by computer, telephone and fax while working a distance from your office, e.g. at home

telephony /tə'lefəni/ noun U [16] the science of audio communication through electric devices. It commonly refers to software that will make a computer act like a telephone.

teleworking /'teliwɜ:kɪŋ/ noun U [24] the process of working at home while communicating with your office by computer, telephone and fax. See telecommute.

teller machine /'telə məʃi:n/ noun C [25] a machine used for taking payments in large shops and supermarkets

telnet /'telnet/ noun U [12] acronym for teletype network. An Internet service that allows a user to connect to a multi-user server using a computer as a terminal.

terabit /'terəbɪt/ noun C [23] a unit of storage capacity equal to 1 009 511 627 776 bits

terminal /'tɜ:mɪnəl/ noun C [11] a network device used to input and output data (usually a basic computer)

terminal adapter /'tɜ:mɪnəl ədæptə(r)/ noun C [16] a device for connecting an ISDN system to an existing telephone line

text editor /'tekst ,edɪtə(r)/ noun C [6] a computer program for editing basic data or program text, i.e. like a basic wordprocessor

TFT display /'ti: ef 'ti: dɪspleɪ/ noun C [2] abbreviation for thin film transistor display. A type of LCD screen display commonly used in portable computers. It uses a separate transistor to control each pixel on the display.

thin client /'θɪn ˌklaɪənt/ noun C [11, 15] a low-cost centrally-managed basic computer with a keyboard and display screen processor and memory but no CD-ROM drive, floppy disk drive or expansion slots, e.g. a NetPC or a network computer (NC)

third-generation GSM /'θɜ:d ˌdʒenə'reɪʃn ˌdʒi: es 'em/ noun U [23] the third generation of the Global System for Mobile communication standard. It is the standard for mobile users around the world.

throughput /'θru:pʊt/ noun U [17] the amount of data that passes through a system in a given period of time

toggle-box /'tɒglbɒks/ noun C [10] a screen icon in Windows Explorer that opens or closes a folder to show or hide its subfolders when the user clicks on it using a mouse

tooltip /'tu:ltɪp/ noun C [7] a label that appear on the screen when the user holds the mouse pointer over an icon in a Microsoft Windows system

topology /'tɒpələdʒi/ noun C [5, 11] the physical layout of a network

tower chassis /'taʊə ˌtʃæsi/ noun C [2] a personal computer case that stands on end and can be placed on the floor

unlike the normal desktop case that sits flat on a desk under the monitor

track /træk/ noun C [2] a formatted circular magnetic storage area on a computer disk

traffic /'træfɪk/ noun U [11, 16] the volume of signals or data that passes through a network system

transaction processing /trænz'ækʃn ˌprəʊsesɪŋ/ noun U [21] the processing of computer transactions by updating the computer file as each transaction takes place rather than storing them until later to be processed as a batch

transistor /træn'zɪstə(r)/ noun C [23] a solid state electronic switch or amplifier

transmission control protocol /trænz.mɪʃn kən'trəʊl 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [12] a set of standards for the delivery of error-free data in communications between computers. It comes into operation once a data packet is delivered to the correct Internet address and application port. It manages the communication exchanges and provides reliable stream service by structuring and buffering the data flow looking for responses and taking action to replace missing data blocks.

transponder /træns'pɒndə(r)/ noun C [23] a device that responds to received coded radio signals by automatically transmitting a different coded signal

transport layer /'trɑ:ns'pɔ:t ˌleɪə(r)/ noun C [11] the part of a network communications system that protects the data being sent. It subdivides the data into segments and creates checksum tests. It can also make backup copies of the data.

trapdoor /'træp'dɔ:(r)/ noun C [18] a technique used in a computer crime that involves leaving within a completed program an illicit program that allows unauthorised - and unknown-entry

Trojan (horse) /'trɒdʒən/ noun C [18, 20] a technique used in a computer crime that involves adding concealed instructions to a computer program so that it will still work but will also perform prohibited duties. In other words it appears to do something useful but actually does something destructive in the background.

troubleshoot /'trʌblʃu:t/ verb [22] to find and fix faults in a system

troubleshooter /'trʌblʃu:tə(r)/ noun C [22] a person who finds and fixes faults in a system

TTS /'ti: ti: 'es/ noun U [7] abbreviation for text to speech. A system where a

computer reads text to the user using a speech synthesiser.

tuned /tju:nd/ adj [11] set to operate on the same frequency

TV (set) /ti: 'vi:/ noun C [11, 16, 23, 24] abbreviation for television. A television set is the actual television device used for displaying the video signals.

twisted-pair (cabling) /'twɪstɪd 'peə(r)/ noun U [11, 16] a common type of network cable that uses two wires twisted together to reduce interference from external signals

typesetting /'taɪpsetɪŋ/ noun U [6] preparation for printing

U

UDP /ju: di: 'pi:/ noun U [12] abbreviation for user datagram protocol

undo /ˌʌn'du:/ verb [10] to restore a file to the condition it was in before the last change was made

unencrypt /ˌʌnɛn'kript/ verb [18] to remove the encryption from a file

uniform resource locator /ˌju:nɪfɔ:m rɪ'zɔ:s ləʊ,keɪtə(r)/ noun C [13] the unique address of a webpage

uninterruptible power supply /ˌʌnɪntə'rʌptəbl 'paʊə səˌplaɪ/ noun C [19] a battery backup system that automatically provides power to a computer when the normal electricity source fails

universal mobile telecommunications system /ˌju:nɪvɜ:sl məʊbəl ˌtelɪkəˌmju:nɪ'keɪʃnz ˌsɪstəm/ noun U [16] a third-generation, broadband, packet-based communications system based on the Global System for Mobile (GSM) communication standard. It provides the same services including the transmission of text-digitised voice video and multimedia to mobile computer and phone users throughout the world.

Unix /'ju:nɪks/ noun U [5, 6, 13, 14, 21, 22, 25] a popular multi-user multitasking operating system originally designed for mainframe computers. A wide variety of versions exist.

update /ˌʌpdeɪt/ noun C [5, 15, 22] a change that provides the latest version

update /ˌʌp'deɪt/ verb [5, 15, 22] to bring up to date, i.e. to change into the latest version

upgrade /ˌʌpgreɪd/ noun C [2] a change that improves the features or performance of a system

upgrade /ˌʌp'greɪd/ verb [2, 5, 6, 16, 22] to add components to improve the features or performance of a system

upload /ˈʌpˈləʊd/ verb [5, 16, 24] to copy a file from a client computer to a server in a network

UPS /juː piː 'es/ noun C [2] abbreviation for uninterruptible power supply

upstream /ˈʌpstriːm/ noun U [16] the signal path for receiving communications from a client computer to a server in a network

URL /juː ɑː 'el/ noun C [9, 13, 20, 22] abbreviation for uniform (or universal) resource locator

Usenet /'juːznet/ noun U [12, 20] an Internet service that allows users to communicate by means of newsgroups

user /'juːzə(r)/ noun C [1, 5, 6, 18, 21, 22, 23, 25] the person using a computer

user datagram protocol /'juːzəˌdeɪtəgræm 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [12] a set of standards for creating a data address in a TCP/IP message. It is used to indicate what application the message is supposed to contact and provides the final routing for the data within the receiving system.

user-authentication system /'juːzəˌɔːθenti'keɪʃn 'sɪstəm/ noun C [18] a system that identifies users. This can be done using digital certificates.

username /'juːzəneɪm/ noun C [19] the network account name assigned to a particular user

utility (program) /juː'tɪlɪti/ noun C [6, 25] a program included with an operating system that can perform useful common routine tasks or housekeeping operations, e.g. formatting disks or copying files

UTMS /juː tiː em 'es/ noun U [16] abbreviation for Universal Mobile Telecommunications System

V

V /vɒlt/ noun C [23] abbreviation for volt, the international unit of voltage

VB /viː 'biː/ noun U [22] abbreviation for Visual Basic

VCR /viː siː 'ɑː(r)/ noun C [1] abbreviation for video cassette recorder

VDU /viː diː 'juː/ noun C [2] abbreviation for visual display unit. Another name for a computer monitor.

verify /'veriˌfaɪ/ verb [11] to check for accuracy

video /'vɪdiəʊ/ noun U [2, 9, 16, 17] signals containing picture information

video (cassette) recorder /'vɪdiəʊ rɪˌkɔːdə(r)/ noun C [16, 23] a device for recording video signals onto magnetic tape cassettes

video memory /'vɪdiəʊ 'meməri/ noun U [2] the memory used to store graphics data on a graphics card

videoconferencing /ˌvɪdiəʊ

'kɒnfərənsɪŋ/ noun U [1, 24] a form of communication over a network that uses video cameras so that the people taking part can see and hear each other

virtual /'vɜːtʃʊəl/ adj [12, 23, 24] computer-simulated enabling the user to experience something without needing its physical presence

virtual reality /ˌvɜːtʃʊəl rɪ'æləti/ noun U [12] a simulated three-dimensional environment that surrounds the user and is generated by a computer

virus /'vaɪrəs/ noun C [1, 8, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20] a program written with the purpose of causing damage or causing a computer to behave in an unusual way

virus-check /'vaɪrəs tʃek/ verb [10, 15] to check for viruses

VIS /vɪz/ noun U [2] abbreviation for viewable image size. The actual size of the image that can be seen by the user on a computer display screen.

Visual Basic /ˌvɪʒʊəl 'beɪsɪk/ noun U [21, 22] a general-purpose programming language with a graphical interface. It is particularly suitable for use by beginners learning how to program.

visualisation technology /ˌvɪʒʊəlaɪˌzeɪʃn tek'nɒlədʒi/ noun U [24] systems and devices used to create a virtual reality environment

VMS /viː em 'es/ noun U [6] an operating system used by DEC VAX minicomputers

voice /vɔɪs/ noun C [2] a stored musical instrument sound sample used to produce realistic music output in a wavetable soundcard

voice clip /'vɔɪs klɪp/ noun C [21] a short sound recording of the human voice

voice recognition /'vɔɪs rekəg'nɪʃn/ noun U [7, 19] a system that can respond to words spoken by a human being

voice synthesis /'vɔɪs sɪnθəsɪs/ noun U [24] the generation of a human-sounding voice using electronic circuits

voice synthesiser /'vɔɪs sɪnθəsəɪzə(r)/ noun C [24] an electronic device that generates sounds that represent the human voice

VR /viː 'ɑː(r)/ noun U [23] abbreviation for virtual reality

W

wallpaper /'wɔːlpeɪpə(r)/ noun C [9] the background graphics on a Microsoft Windows desktop

Wap /wæp/ noun U [16] acronym for wireless application protocol. A set of

standards for allowing users to send emails and access information including video transmissions from the Internet on a mobile phone.

WAV /wæv/ noun U [9] an audio file format

wavetable system /'weɪteɪbl 'sɪstəm/ noun C [2] a system used in some soundcards for more accurately creating the sound of real musical instruments by reproducing a wide frequency range from a small number of original samples

Web address /'web əˌdres/ noun C [5, 13, 20] the Internet address of a webpage

Web developer /'web dɪˌveləpə(r)/ noun C [22] a person who is employed to create websites

Web mail /'web meɪl/ noun U [13] a type of email that is accessed from webpages

Web server /'web sɜːvə(r)/ noun C [13] a server computer that stores and provides access to websites

Web space /'web speɪs/ noun U [12, 14] disk storage space on a web server used for storing webpages

Web (the) /web/ noun U [1, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25] common name for the World Wide Web

Webmaster /'webmɑːstə(r)/ noun C [14, 22] a person who administers a Web server

webpage /'webpeɪdʒ/ noun C [6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22] a hyperlinked document in a web network system

web-ready appliances protocol /'webˌredi əˌplaɪənsɪz 'prəʊtəkɒl/ noun U [23] a set of standards for enabling domestic appliances to be connected to the Web and to communicate with each other

website /'websaɪt/ noun C [1, 5, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25] a set of related pages on the World Wide Web

wildcard /'waɪldkɑːd/ noun C [13] a symbol used in computer commands and for searching databases. It represents any character or combination of characters, e.g. using an asterisk searching for *ed would find all words ending in ed.

window /'wɪndəʊ/ noun C [7] a rectangular screen area containing a program folder or file in a WIMP system

(Microsoft) Windows /'wɪndəʊz/ noun U [2, 6, 12, 17, 19, 22, 25] a graphical user interface operating system front-end to MS-DOS developed by the Microsoft Corporation. It has been gradually developed into a full operating system.

Windows Explorer /ˈwɪndəʊz

ɪkˈsplɔːrə(r)/ noun U [9] a Microsoft Windows program that allows the user to see the files and folders on all the disks attached to the computer. It can be used for general housekeeping such as moving or deleting files.

Windows Media Player /ˈwɪndəʊz

ˈmiːdiəˌpleɪə(r)/ noun U [9] a Microsoft Windows program for playing multimedia files including audio and video

wipe (a disk) /waɪp/ verb [18] to delete all the files stored on a disk

wirelessly /ˈwaɪələsli/ adj [23] using radio signals without the need for connecting wires or cables

WML /ˈdʌbljuː em ˈel/ noun U [16] abbreviation for wireless markup language. A language similar to HTML used for designing webpages suitable for mobile phones.

(Microsoft) Word /wɜːd/ noun U [1, 10, 22] a widely-used wordprocessing program developed by the Microsoft Corporation. It is a component of the Microsoft Office package.

wordprocessing /ˈwɜːdˈprəʊsesɪŋ/ noun U [5, 6, 25] the process of typing and editing text using a wordprocessor

wordprocessor /ˈwɜːdˈprəʊsesə(r)/ noun C [16, 18] a type of computer application program used for typing and editing text documents

workstation /ˈwɜːkstetʃn/ noun C [2, 6, 22] a powerful desktop computer used by power users for work that requires a lot of processing, e.g. graphic design

World Wide Web (the) /ˈwɜːldˌwɜːd ˈweb/ noun U [7, 13, 20, 22] an information service on the Internet that allows document pages to be accessed using hyperlinks

WORM /wɜːm/ noun U [19] acronym for write once read many. A standard for optical storage devices that only allows data to be recorded on to a particular optical disk once but allows the data to be read from the disk over and over again. It is commonly used for archiving data.

WRAP /ræp/ noun U [23] acronym for Web-ready appliances protocol. A set of communications system standards that enable web-connected appliances to communicate.

writable CD-ROM drive /ˈraɪtəbl siː diː ˈrɒm draɪv/ noun C [9] a compact disk drive that allows the user to write data onto a CD as well as read data stored on the CD

write-back cache /ˈraɪt bæk ˌkæʃ/ noun C [2] a buffer storage system where the processor writes changes only to the

cache and not to main memory. Cache entries that have changed are flagged as 'dirty' telling the cache controller to write their contents back to main memory before using the space to cache new data.

write-through cache /ˈraɪt θruː ˌkæʃ/

noun C [2] a buffer storage system where the processor writes directly to both the cache and main memory at the same time

WWW /ˈdʌbljuː ˌdʌbljuː ˈdʌbljuː/ noun U [12] abbreviation for the World Wide Web. The Internet service used for connecting to multimedia webpages.

X

X (windowing) (system) /eks/ noun U [6] a windowing system used with different versions of Unix

X.25 /ˌeks ˌtwenti ˈfaɪv/ noun U [12] the International Telegraphic Union packet-switching data communications standard for connecting computers and a public network

XGA /ˌeks ɡɜː ˈeɪ/ noun U [2] abbreviation for extended graphics array. An IBM display screen standard with a resolution of 1024X768 pixels and up to 65,536 colours.

XML /ˌeks em ˈel/ noun U [7, 14, 16, 20, 21, 25] abbreviation for extensible markup language

Y

Yahoo /jæˈhuː/ noun U [15, 20] the name of a popular Internet search engine website

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