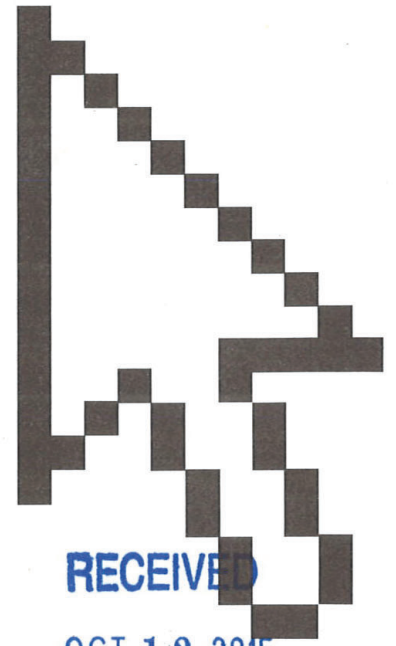


Microsoft®

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition



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Briefcase *n.* A system folder in Windows 9x used for synchronizing files between two computers, usually between desktop and laptop computers. The Briefcase can be transferred to another computer via disk, cable, or network. When files are transferred back to the original computer, the Briefcase updates all files to the most recent version.

brightness *n.* The perceived quality of radiance or luminosity of a visible object. Brightness is literally in the eye (and mind) of the beholder; a candle in the night appears brighter than the same candle under incandescent lights. Although its subjective value cannot be measured with physical instruments, brightness can be measured as luminance (radiant energy). The brightness component of a color is different from its color (the hue) and from the intensity of its color (the saturation). *See also* color model, HSB.

British Naval Connector *n.* *See* BNC.

broadband *adj.* Of or relating to communications systems in which the medium of transmission (such as a wire or fiber-optic cable) carries multiple messages at a time, each message modulated on its own carrier frequency by means of modems. Broadband communication is found in wide area networks. *Compare* baseband.

broadband ISDN *n.* Next-generation ISDN based on ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) technology. Broadband ISDN divides information into two categories: interactive services, which are controlled by the user, and distributed (or distribution) services that can be broadcast to the user. *Acronym:* BISDN. *See also* ATM (definition 1), ISDN.

broadband modem *n.* A modem for use on a broadband network. Broadband technology allows several networks to coexist on a single cable. Traffic from one network does not interfere with traffic from another, since the conversations happen on different frequencies, rather like the commercial radio system. *See also* broadband network.

broadband network *n.* A local area network on which transmissions travel as radio-frequency signals over separate inbound and outbound channels. Stations on a broadband network are connected by coaxial or fiber-optic cable, which can carry data, voice, and video simultaneously over multiple transmission channels that are distinguished by frequency. A broadband network is capable of high-speed operation (20 megabits or more), but it is

more expensive than a baseband network and can be difficult to install. Such a network is based on the same technology used by cable television (CATV). *Also called:* wideband transmission. *Compare* baseband network.

broadcast¹ *adj.* Sent to more than one recipient. In communications and on networks, a broadcast message is one distributed to all stations. *See also* e-mail¹ (definition 1).

broadcast² *n.* As in radio or television, a transmission sent to more than one recipient.

broadcast publishing point *n.* A type of publishing point that streams content in such a way that the client cannot control (start, stop, pause, fast forward, or rewind) the content. Content streamed from a broadcast publishing point can be delivered as a multicast or unicast stream. Formerly called a station.

broadcast storm *n.* A network broadcast that causes multiple hosts to respond simultaneously, overloading the network. A broadcast storm may occur when old TCP/IP routers are mixed with routers that support a new protocol. *See also* communications protocol, router, TCP/IP.

broken as designed *adj.* *See* BAD.

Brouter *n.* *See* bridge router.

brownout *n.* A condition in which the electricity level is appreciably reduced for a sustained period of time. In contrast to a blackout, or total loss of power, a brownout continues the flow of electricity to all devices connected to electrical outlets, although at lower levels than the normally supplied levels (120 volts in the United States). A brownout can be extremely damaging to sensitive electronic devices, such as computers, because the reduced and often fluctuating voltage levels can cause components to operate for extended periods of time outside the range they were designed to work in. On a computer, a brownout is characterized by a smaller, dimmer, and somewhat fluctuating display area on the monitor and potentially erratic behavior by the system unit. The only reliable means of preventing damage caused by a brownout condition is to use a battery-backed uninterruptible power supply (UPS). *See also* UPS. *Compare* blackout.

browse *vb.* To scan a database, a list of files, or the Internet, either for a particular item or for anything that seems to be of interest. Generally, browsing implies observing, rather than changing, information. In unauthorized computer hacking, browsing is a (presumably) nondestructive

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elevator seeking *n.* A method of limiting hard disk access time in which multiple requests for data are prioritized based on the location of the data relative to the read/write head. This serves to minimize head movement. *See also* access time (definition 2), hard disk, read/write head.

elite *n.* **1.** A size of fixed-width type that prints 12 characters to the inch. **2.** A fixed-width font that may be available in various type sizes. *See also* monospace font.

ELIZA *n.* A program, modeled on Rogerian psychotherapy, that conducts simulated conversations with humans by echoing responses and posing questions based on key words in earlier comments. It was created by Dr. Joseph Weizenbaum, who considered it a bit of a joke and was alarmed that people took it seriously. *See also* artificial intelligence, Turing test.

ellipsis *n.* A set of three dots (...) used to convey incompleteness. In many windowing applications, selection of a command that is followed by an ellipsis will produce a submenu or a dialog box. In programming and software manuals, an ellipsis in a syntax line indicates the repetition of certain elements. *See also* dialog box, syntax.

elm *n.* Short for **electronic mail**. A program for reading and composing e-mail on UNIX systems. The elm program has a full-screen editor, making it easier to use than the original mail program, but elm has largely been superseded by pine. *See also* e-mail¹. *Compare* Eudora, pine.

e-mail¹ or **email** or **E-mail** *n.* **1.** Short for **electronic mail**. The exchange of text messages and computer files over a communications network, such as a local area network or the Internet, usually between computers or terminals. **2.** An electronic text message.

e-mail² or **email** or **E-mail** *vb.* To send an e-mail message.

e-mail address *n.* A string that identifies a user so that the user can receive Internet e-mail. An e-mail address typically consists of a name that identifies the user to the mail server, followed by an at sign (@) and the host name and domain name of the mail server. For example, if Anne E. Oldhacker has an account on the machine called baz at Foo Enterprises, she might have an e-mail address aeo@baz.foo.com, which would be pronounced "A E O at baz dot foo dot com."

e-mail filter *n.* A feature in e-mail-reading software that automatically sorts incoming mail into different folders or mailboxes based on information contained in the message.

For example, all incoming mail from a user's Uncle Joe might be placed in a folder labeled "Uncle Joe." Filters may also be used either to block or accept e-mail from designated sources.

e-mail management system *n.* An automated e-mail response system used by an Internet-based business to sort incoming e-mail messages into predetermined categories and either reply to the sender with an appropriate response or direct the e-mail to a customer service representative. *Acronym:* EMS.

embed *vb.* To insert information created in one program, such as a chart or an equation, into another program. After the object is embedded, the information becomes part of the document. Any changes made to the object are reflected in the document.

embedded *adj.* In software, pertaining to code or a command that is built into its carrier. For example, application programs insert embedded printing commands into a document to control printing and formatting. Low-level assembly language is embedded in higher-level languages, such as C, to provide more capabilities or better efficiency.

embedded chip *n.* *See* embedded system.

embedded command *n.* A command placed in a text, graphics, or other document file, often used for printing or page-layout instructions. Such commands often do not appear on screen but can be displayed if needed. In transferring documents from one program to another, embedded commands can cause problems if the programs are incompatible.

embedded controller *n.* A processor-based controller circuit board that is built into the computer machinery. *See also* controller.

embedded hyperlink *n.* A link to a resource that is embedded within text or is associated with an image or an image map. *See also* hyperlink, image map.

embedded interface *n.* An interface built into a hardware device's drive and controller board so that the device can be directly connected to the computer's system bus. *See also* controller, interface (definition 3). *Compare* ESDI, SCSI, ST506 interface.

embedded system *n.* Microprocessors used to control devices such as appliances, automobiles, and machines used in business and manufacturing. An embedded system is created to manage a limited number of specific tasks