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antivirus program *n.* A computer program that scans a computer's memory and mass storage to identify, isolate, and eliminate viruses, and that examines incoming files for viruses as the computer receives them.

any key *n.* Any random key on a computer keyboard. Some programs prompt the user to "press any key" to continue. It does not matter which key the user presses. There is no key on the keyboard called Any.

any-to-any connectivity *n.* The property of an integrated computer network environment where it is possible to share data across multiple protocols, host types, and network topologies.

AOL *n.* See America Online.

AOL NetFind *n.* Resident Web-finding tool of America Online (AOL) information service. Searches by key word and concept. Using Intelligent Concept Extraction (ICE) and Excite technology, this tool finds relationships between words and ideas; for example, between "elderly people" and "senior citizen." See also Intelligent Concept Extraction, Excite.

APA *n.* See all points addressable.

Apache *n.* A free open-source HTTP (Web) server introduced in 1995 by the Apache Group as an extension to, and improvement of, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications' earlier HTTPd (version 1.3). Apache is popular on UNIX-based systems, including Linux and also runs on Windows NT and other operating systems, such as BeOS. Because the server was based on existing code with a series of patches, it became known as "A Patchy server," which led to the official name Apache. See also HTTPd.

Apache Group *n.* A nonprofit organization of volunteers from around the world that operate and contribute to the Apache HTTP Server Project.

Apache HTTP Server Project *n.* A collaborative effort by the members of the Apache Group to design, develop, and maintain the Apache HTTP (Web) server. See also Apache, Apache Group.

Apache project *n.* See Apache HTTP Server Project

APC *n.* See asynchronous procedure call.

aperture grill *n.* A type of CRT (cathode ray tube) used in computer monitors that uses thin, closely spaced vertical wires to isolate the individual pixels. The first aperture grill CRT was the Sony Trinitron,

but several other manufacturers also produce aperture grill CRTs. See also CRT.

API *n.* See application programming interface.

APL *n.* Acronym for **A Programming Language**. A high-level language introduced in 1968 for scientific and mathematical applications. APL is a subprogram-based interpreted language that uses a large set of special characters and terse syntax and is available for use on PC-compatible machines. See also interpreted language.

APM *n.* See Advanced Power Management.

APNIC *n.* Acronym for **Asian-Pacific Network Information Center**, a nonprofit, voluntary membership organization covering the Asia/Pacific Rim region. APNIC, like its European counterpart RIPE and its American counterpart ARIN, devotes itself to matters related to the Internet, among them such tasks as registering new members, allocating IP addresses, and maintaining database information. See also ARIN, RIPE.

app *n.* See application.

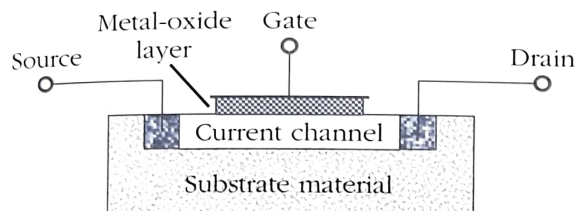
APPC *n.* Acronym for **Advanced Program-to-Program Communication**. A specification developed as part of IBM's SNA (Systems Network Architecture) model and designed to enable applications programs running on different computers to communicate and exchange data directly. APPC extends SNA to include minicomputers and PCs.

append *vb.* To place or insert as an attachment by adding data to the end of a file or database or extending a character string. See also file, string. Compare truncate.

Apple Desktop Bus *n.* A serial communications pathway built into Apple Macintosh and Apple IIGS computers. Typically a flexible cord, it enables low-speed input devices, such as a keyboard or mouse, to communicate with the computer. The bus functions like a simple local area network that can connect up to 16 devices, such as light pens, trackballs, and graphics tablets, to the computer. Although there are only two external ports, more than two devices can be linked in a series called a daisy chain. Acronym: ADB. See also bus, daisy chain², device driver, input/output port, serial communication.

AppleDraw *n.* A shareware drawing application for Macintosh computers.

A common type of field-effect transistor in which a layer of silicon dioxide insulates the metal gate from the semiconductor current channel. MOSFETs have extremely high input impedance and therefore require almost no driving power. They are used in many audio applications, including high-gain amplifier circuits. Like all metal-oxide semiconductor (MOS) devices, MOSFETs are easily damaged by static electricity. See the illustration. *See also* FET, MOS.



MOSFET. A schematic cross section of a MOSFET transistor.

most significant bit \mōst` sig-nif ə-kənt bit` *n.* In a sequence of one or more bytes, the highest-order bit of a binary number, not including the sign bit. *Acronym:* MSB (M`S-B`). *See also* high-order. *Compare* least significant bit.

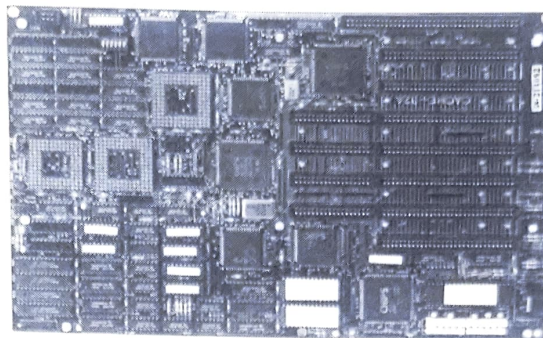
most significant character \mōst` sig-nif ə-kənt kār`ək-tər` *n.* The high-order, or leftmost, character in a string. *Acronym:* MSC (M`S-C`). *See also* high-order. *Compare* least significant character.

most significant digit \mōst` sig-nif ə-kənt dij`-ət` *n.* In a sequence of one or more digits, the highest-order digit, which is the leftmost digit. In 456.78, 4 is the most significant digit. *Acronym:* MSD (M`S-D`). *Compare* least significant digit.

MOTD \M`O-T-D` *n.* *See* message of the day.

motherboard \mædh`ər-bōrd` *n.* The main circuit board containing the primary components of a computer system. This board contains the processor, main memory, support circuitry, and bus controller and connector. Other boards, including expansion memory and input/output boards, may attach to the motherboard via the bus connector. *See the illustration.* *See also* expansion slot. *Compare* daughterboard.

Motion JPEG \mō`shən J`peg, J`P-E-G` *n.* A standard for storing motion video, proposed by the Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), that uses JPEG image compression for each frame. *See*



Motherboard.

also JPEG (definition 1). *Compare* MPEG (definition 1).

mount \mount` *vb.* To make a physical disk or tape accessible to a computer's file system. The term is most commonly used to describe accessing disks in Apple Macintosh and UNIX-based computers.

mouse \mous` *n.* A common pointing device. The basic features of a mouse are a flat-bottomed casing designed to be gripped by one hand; one or more buttons on the top; a multidirectional detection device (usually a ball) on the bottom; and a cable connecting the mouse to the computer. By moving the mouse on a surface (such as a desktop), the user typically controls an on-screen cursor. A mouse is a relative pointing device because there are no defined limits to the mouse's movement and because its placement on a surface does not map directly to a specific screen location. To select items or choose commands on the screen, the user presses one of the mouse's buttons, producing a "mouse click." *See the illustration on the next page.* *See also* bus mouse, mechanical mouse, optical mouse, optomechanical mouse, relative pointing device, serial mouse. *Compare* trackball.

MouseKeys \mous`kēz` *n.* A feature in Microsoft Windows that allows a user to use the numeric keyboard to move the mouse pointer. MouseKeys is primarily intended for people who may have physical limitations that make it difficult to move a conventional mouse. *See also* mouse.

mouse pad \mous` pad` *n.* A surface on which a mouse can be moved, typically a rectangular rubber pad covered with fabric, providing more

National Information Infrastructure \nash`ə-nəl in-fər-mā`shən in`frə-struk`chur\ *n.* A future high-bandwidth wide area network proposed by the U.S. government to carry data, fax, video, and voice transmissions to users throughout the United States. The network is to be developed mostly by private carriers; the government anticipates that the principal motive will be to deliver movies to homes on demand. Many of the proposed services are or will soon become available on the Internet itself. *Acronym:* NII (N`I-I`). *See also* Information Superhighway. *Compare* Internet.

National Science Foundation \nash`ə-nəl sī`əns foun-dā`shən\ *n.* A U.S. government agency intended to promote scientific research by funding both research projects and projects that facilitate scientific communication, such as NSFnet, the former backbone of the Internet. *See also* backbone (definition 1), NSFnet.

National Television System Committee \nash`ə-nəl tel`ə-vizh`ən si`stəm kə-mit`ē\ *n.* *See* NTSC.

native \nā`tiv\ *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of something that is in its original form. For example, many applications are able to work with files in a number of formats; the format the application uses internally is its native file format. Files in other formats must be converted to the application's native format before they can be processed by the application.

native application \nā`tiv a`plə-kā`shən\ *n.* A program that is designed specifically for a particular type of microprocessor, that is, a program that is binary compatible with a processor. A native application generally will run much faster than a non-native application, which must be run with the help of an emulator program. *See also* binary compatibility, emulator.

native code \nā`tiv kōd\ *n.* Code specific to a particular machine or processor.

native compiler \nā`tiv kəm-pī`lēr\ *n.* A compiler that produces machine code for the computer on which it is running, as opposed to a cross-compiler, which produces code for another type of computer. Most compilers are native compilers. *See also* compiler (definition 2), cross-compiler.

native file format \nā`tiv fīl`fōr-mat\ *n.* The format an application uses internally to process data. The application must convert files in other formats

to the native format before it can work with them. For example, a word processor might recognize text files in ASCII text format, but it will convert them to its own native format before it displays them.

native language \nā`tiv lang`wəj\ *n.* *See* host language.

natural language \nach`ər-əl lang`wəj\ *n.* A language spoken or written by humans, as opposed to a programming language or a machine language. Understanding natural language and approximating it in a computer environment is one goal of research in artificial intelligence.

natural-language processing \nach`ər-əl-lang wəj pros`əs-ēng\ *n.* A field of computer science and linguistics that studies computer systems that can recognize and react to human language, either spoken or written. *See also* artificial intelligence. *Compare* speech recognition.

natural language query \na`chur-əl lang`wə kwēr`ē, kwār`ē\ *n.* A query to a database system that is composed in a subset of a natural language, such as English or Japanese. The query must conform to some restrictive syntax rules so that the system can parse it. *See also* parse, syntax.

natural-language recognition \nach`ər-əl-lang wəj rek-əg-nish`ən\ *n.* *See* speech recognition.

natural language support \nach`ur-əl lang`wə su-pōrt\ *n.* A voice recognition system that allows the user to use verbal commands in his or her own language to direct a computer's actions. *Acronym:* NLS (N`L-S').

natural number \nach`ər-əl num`bər\ *n.* An integer, or whole number, that is equal to or greater than zero. *See also* integer (definition 1).

navigation bar \nav`ə-gā`shən bār\ *n.* On a Web page, a grouping of hyperlinks for getting around in that particular Web site. *See also* hyperlink.

navigation keys \nav`ə-gā`shən kēz\ *n.* The keys on a keyboard controlling cursor movement, including the four arrow keys and the Backspace, End, Home, Page Down, and Page Up keys. *See also* arrow key, Backspace key, End key, Home key, Page Down key, Page Up key.

Navigator \nav`ə-gā`tər\ *n.* *See* Netscape Navigator.

.navy.mil \dot-nā`vē-dot-mil', dot-nā`vē-dot-Mil-L\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic