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Computer Dictionary

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distributed database management system *n.* A database management system capable of managing a distributed database. *Acronym:* DDBMS. *See also* distributed database.

distributed denial of service attack *n.* *See* DDoS.

distributed file system *n.* A file management system in which files may be located on multiple computers connected over a local or wide area network. *Acronym:* DFS.

distributed intelligence *n.* A system in which processing ability (intelligence) is distributed among multiple computers and other devices, each of which can work independently to some degree but can also communicate with the other devices to function as part of the larger system. *See also* distributed processing.

distributed network *n.* A network in which processing, storage, and other functions are handled by separate units (nodes) rather than by a single main computer.

distributed processing *n.* A form of information processing in which work is performed by separate computers linked through a communications network. Distributed processing is usually categorized as either plain distributed processing or true distributed processing. Plain distributed processing shares the workload among computers that can communicate with one another. True distributed processing has separate computers perform different tasks in such a way that their combined work can contribute to a larger goal. The latter type of processing requires a highly structured environment that allows hardware and software to communicate, share resources, and exchange information freely.

distributed services *n.* *See* BISDN.

distributed system *n.* A noncentralized network consisting of numerous computers that can communicate with one another and that appear to users as parts of a single, large, accessible “storehouse” of shared hardware, software, and data.

Distributed System Object Model *n.* IBM’s System Object Model (SOM) in a shared environment, where binary class libraries can be shared between applications on networked computers or between applications on a given system. The Distributed System Object Model complements existing object-oriented languages by allowing SOM class libraries to be shared among applications writ-

ten in different languages. *Acronym:* DSOM. *See also* SOM (definition 1).

distributed transaction processing *n.* Transaction processing that is shared by one or more computers communicating over a network. *Acronym:* DTP. *See also* distributed processing, transaction processing.

distributed workplace *n.* An environment other than the traditional office or factory, in which work is carried out on a regular basis. The flexibility afforded by the combination of communications and computing technologies enables many workers to conduct business anywhere the appropriate computer and data communications infrastructure has been set up. *See also* SOHO, telecommute.

distribution group *n.* A group that is used solely for e-mail distribution and that is not security-enabled. Distribution groups cannot be listed in discretionary access control lists (DACLS) used to define permissions on resources and objects. Distribution groups can be used only with e-mail applications (such as Microsoft Exchange) to send e-mail messages to collections of users. If you do not need a group for security purposes, create a distribution group instead of a security group. *See also* discretionary access control list, security group.

distribution list *n.* A list of recipients on an e-mail mailing list. This can be in the form of either a mailing list program, such as LISTSERV, or an alias in an e-mail program for all recipients of an e-mail message. *See also* alias (definition 2), LISTSERV, mailing list.

distribution services *n.* *See* BISDN.

distributive sort *n.* An ordering process in which a list is separated into parts and then reassembled in a particular order. *See also* sort algorithm. *Compare* bubble sort, insertion sort, merge sort, quicksort.

distro¹ *n.* **1.** A distribution of software (usually a version of Linux), digital music, or an online magazine or e-zine. *See also* e-zine, Linux. **2.** A company or individual that sells items, typically software, music CDs, or books, via the Web.

distro² *vb.* To distribute or sell software releases, digital music, or text items via the Web.

dithering *n.* A technique used in computer graphics to create the illusion of varying shades of gray on a monochrome display or printer, or additional colors on a color display or printer. Dithering relies on treating areas of an